NICOSIA (AP) — A carbomb exploded on Monday outside the Ishtar Sheraton hotel in Baghdad, Cable News Network said. The report, from a journalist in Baghdad, said an ambulance raced from the scene with its siren on, but there was no immediate word on injuries. "Some cars were burned," a hotel operator told the Associated Press in Nicosia. "No one is injured. All the people are safe," he said before the line was cut. Telephone connections between Baghdad and the outside world have been erratic since Iraq's communications facilities were largely destroyed during the Gulf war. CNN said the late afternoon explosion occurred near a United Nations vehicle, and authorities cordoned off the area and prevented reporters from entering. The Sheraton is across the street from the Palestine Hotel, the base for U.N. inspectors during their search for Iraq's weapons of mass destruction. Incidents of violence such as car bombings are rare in Baghdad, where security forces are omnipresent. Although many government buildings and other military targets in the Iraqi capital were badiy damaged by allied bombing during the war, the area around the Sheraton was spared.

arma Number 4894

AMMAN TUESDAY, DECEMBER 31, 1991, JUMADEH AL AKHERA 25, 1412

Price: Jordan 100 fils; Saudi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirhams

Man temists disrupt which besselni speech

Charchen CUPIED JERUSALEM - Islamic fundamentalists war was present to Arab-Israeli peace arme Polo is hurled rocks and bottles at ered the restinian leader Faisal Al Husk Boroulices said. Mr. Husseini, a top lila envelopisor to Palestinian negotiators him in the peace talks, was addressing he page # 1,500 residents of the occu-West Bank town of Tulkarm Police on Palestinians from the 1. Police mas movement began chantsay if the Down with the traitors." ie envelore 70 members of Hamas ress and ripped out light here it is to hurl at Mr. Husseini en and the with rocks and bottles. Irch Montage Demeri, a Palestinian Vikening in a speech the treat it was obvious they aimed iche who hert Husseini." Mr. Husseini king of the unharmed and escorted out hocked the hall by supporters, but Nonghi late locals were injured in the te church want. Arab sources said.

nd the silvitodox Jews desecrate er gent & mosaic

are return

bishop IEL AVIV (R) — Ultrathodox Jews opposed to ex-. vation of a Jerusalem burial site ibed a rare 5th century Byzane mosaic with irremovable ck paint, the Israeli antiquities hority said Monday. The au-P) — West eck burial site in Arab East

Beam usalem, said vandals removed ear-old introver protecting the mosaic and student attered paint over it. On the World Missic are inscriptions about Miss light. "The anthority supposes st 78 other is was work of extremist Jewish and another aroups who ghi i works the excavation at this lists, but the its statement said, adding come one the altra-orthodox Jews had to is from leatened to vandalise the site. ery printing doubtful whether it will be and I wish withe to remove the paint withworld pearl damaging the rare mosaic," i numer-pirstatement added.

ner-up watmbs hurled at Diana Pairo liquor shop

aica Sandaa. Miss MERO (R) - Two men ben. 19. The ed to be Muslim militants her will led petrol bombs Monday at a or available for shop owned by an Egypplays plays christian, security sources vollerate. The sources said no one was ill recent and the men got away. The er wears top in Cairo's denselyork and Foulated Shubra area was slightid. page damaged. Local people helped OULDOE POET Faris Tadros, 62, put out stand Toks fire. Suspected Muslim fun-The mentalists stabbed a beer ven-124 wer proto death in the southern and supptian town of Assiut in Octowell as Police sources said the milipresent its had warned the vendor not and apparently killed m when he refused to comply their demands.

8 Got worst year h record for cholera

S(R)—ENEVA (R) — This year was worst on record for the dismilion new cases reported, the riday ist majority of them in Latin Acues aierica, the World Health ren Bearisation (WHO) said Mon-The figure, which includes here. The figure, which includes here. 300,000 cases from a sudsupported epidemic in Peru, compares Balls a previous high of some Harri 10,000 cases notified to the was not reith body in 1971. Cholera the rock Latin America for the first alions in he this century in January and Red pded up affecting almost The 0,000 people in 13 countries rided each ross the continent. WHO said who a statement. Africa, with some Forces 5,000 cases, was the next worst are county and also suffered the highest ndicated ortality rate.

Golden Ush starts 12-day

2162 00 AIR FORCE ONE (301857, FAP) — President Bush in abarked for Australia and Asia Resident to tell Description of the process of the and edging to tell Pacific allies that " et trade is a two-way street." we want to put people to work are not home, we've got to ex-Acties and to open markets," cholog president said as he boarded who p's mission was recast as the who p's mission was recast as the name of as Mr. Bush's approval ration in the property of the

House endorses

92 budget 45-20 Sharif Zeid pledges close cooperation with Parliament • Jardaneh emphasises

need to adhere to seven-year programme AMMAN (J.T.) - The Lower tional Monetary Fund (IMF) or be- tion with the House in all matters House of Parliament Monday endorsed the government's 1992 draft budget without any significant amendment. The vote was

45 in favour out of a total of 65 deputies of the 80-member House present during the session. The vote was taken Monday evening, after two days of debate on the House floor following the submission to the deputies of the

by the House Finance Commit-Most of the deputies who spoke focused on the rising unemployment and the need to improve the efficiency of public administration as well as the needs of their respective constituencies such as roads, schools, hos-

findings of a review of the budget

and help for farmers. The JD 1.27 billion budget projects a deficit of JD 107 million, compared to JD 351 million in 1991. The govemment hopes to cover it through

pitals and other government facilities

foreign aid and borrowing. Objections to the budget came from some deputies, either because of ideological objections to the Internacause they thought it would bring higher prices and possibly social un-

Many officials expect the government will soon raise the price of high-octane petrol, electricity, fuel oil. water, long-distance telephone calls, with those on high incomes paying the bulk of most increases. Addressing the House, Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker pledged to work more closely with the legislative authority and to seek help

Council (ECC) in matters related to medium-term planning of various The prime minister said Jordan had survived two crucial crises - the decline in the value of the Jordanian dinar in 1988 and the Gulf crisis which

severely damaged the Kingdom's eco-

from the Economic Consultative

He said the government will seek the expert opinion and advice from the ECC on decisions related to the national economy and the Kingdom's monetary and financial affairs.

Sharif Zeid said the government welcomed the views of all the deputies and pledged to seek closer cooperation and constant consultawith a view to widening participation. in decision-making.

The government will submit to the House its socio-economic plan based on sectoral and regional plans which would target all areas, with particular attention on the less developed regions and to agriculture and industry, Sharif Zeid said.

The prime minister said that no overnight solutions could be found for unemployment and poverty. He said these issues as well as foreign debts are of high priority for the government and pledged to continue to exert serious efforts to seek solu-

He said unemployment in Jordan was one of the results of the low number of income-generating projects compared with the high number of jobseckers and that many Jordanians refuse to take up blue-collar jobs. In addition, he said, Jordan is also grappling with the problem of the hundreds of thousands of expatriates who have returned to the Kingdom in the wake of the Gulf crisis. The education system has not yet been geared to meet the needs of the

(Continued on page 3)



His Majesty King Hussein Monday receives Atallah Mohajirani, an assistant in legal and parliamentary

affairs to Iranian President Hashemi Rafsanjani (Petra photo)

King receives Iranian message, briefs envoy on peace process

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein received at the Royal Court Monday Atallah Mohajirani, an assistant in parhamentary and legal affairs to Iranian President Hashemi Rafsanjani, and an accompanying

delegation.

Mr. Mohajirani, who arrived in Amman Sunday, conveyed to King Hussein the greetings of Mr. Rafsanjani and delivered a message from the Iranian president dealing with bilateral relations and enhancing cooperation between the two countries.

King Hussein and the Iranian official also exchanged views on changes in the international arena and their impact on the region in particular and on Third World countries in general. King Hussein briefed Mr. Mohajirani on the Middle East peace process and the rituation in the region. The audience was attended by the chief of the Royal Court and the King's advisor.

The visit of Mr. Mohajirani

the first Iranian visitor of this rank since at least the early 1980s, reflects an upturn in relations between Amman and Tehran. They restored diplomatic ties earlier this year after a decade. Although the two countries dis-

agree on Middle East peace talks, both agree that outside powers should have no role in Gulf security now that the Gulf war has

ties with Iran because of its im-

Algerian secular parties

portant role as a key player in the region," a senior government official told Reuters.

"We are suffering from the post-Gulf war political isolation and many states in the area and the world which were once anti-Iran are now opening up to Tehran," he added. Iran and Jordan cut ties shortly

after the start of the 1980-88 Irag-Iran war Jordan, like Iran, remained

officially neutral in the war over Kuwait earlier this year.

Jordan and Iran reopened embassies in each other's capitals in 1990. Iran, with a population of over 55 million people, has become a new market for Jorda-"We would like to improve our mian fertilisers, phosphates and electrical appliances.

Israeli settlers open fire in W. Bank village

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Armed Jewish settlers opened fire in a West Bank village, warning Palestinians nothing would stop them from "avenging" Palestinian attacks. A 30-car convoy of settlers drove through towns and villages in the Nablus area during the

The settlers opened fire in Anabta when villagers pelted them with stones. No one was burt. In another village, Burka, they chanted warnings until Israeli troops forced them to

The settlers then drove to the home of Defence Minister Moshe Arens to demand government ac-

The 100,000 Jewish settlers in the West Bank strip live in fortified enclaves among 1.75 million Palestinians. The settlers have powerful

allies in the hardline coalition of Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir but insist the government has not done enough to protect them. As protesters chanted "no security here, no security here,' outside Mr. Arens's suburban Tel Aviv house, Rabbi Avraham

Zuriel, one of their leaders, told reporters: "We took a number of actions in the villages to show the residents this is the last time we come to speak with them. If we are forced to come again, we will not

come just to talk." Mr. Arens told reporters earlier he believed there were only a small number of Jewish troublemakers in the occupied territories. He promised lawbreakers

would be punished. "I can understand the mood of the settlers in (the West Bank), Mr. Arens said, but he added: "Whoever violates the law will be

brought to justice.' Israeli army and police chiefs are worried by the increasing militancy of settlers who have gone on rampages against Palestinians and taken over houses in Arab villages.

Last week the government gave settlers the green light to begin setting up civil guards to perform police duties.

Peace activists fear the settlers, opposed to Middle East peace efforts, will exploit these new powers and take the law into their

own hands. The United States, which wants Israel to trade land for peace and stop building settlements in the occupied territories, has urged the government to res-

train settlers. But Mr. Shamir's government insists Israel will never cede an inch of the occupied lands.

The finance ministry has promised right-wing parties more money for Jewish settlements in the occupied territories in an effort to win right-wing backing for the 1992 budget, newspapers said Monday. The Tehiya and Moledet par-

(Continued on page 2)

Carbomb kills 20 to 30 in busy Beirut neighbourhood

BEIRUT (Agencies) — A powerful carbomb, Lebanon's deadliest in six years, ripped through a densely populated neighbourhood Monday. Police said at least 20 to 30 people were killed and 120 wounded.

The wounded included former Prime Minister Shafik Wazzan. who was passing through the area in his bulletproof car. Police said Mr. Wazzan was hospitalised and later discharged.

Military examining magistrate Nadim Tarabieh said 60 people were treated and discharged and 60 others remained in hospital

It was the bloodiest car bombing since June 18, 1985 when a car parked outside a popular ice cream parlour in Lebanon's northern port of Tripoli exploded, killing 60 people and wounding 110 others.

Many of the casualties in Monday's blast were women and children, some trapped screaming on balconies in a burning apartment block as gas canisters exploded around them.

Among the injured was a month-old, blood-covered baby girl. The Voice of the People

radio station appealed for her parents for other relatives to collect the child.

Syrian soldiers dug through rubble with their hands for two hours to reach charred bodies in a shoe shop and basement snack

Cries of panic mixed with the wailing sirens of ambulances as smoke billowed along streets. Soldiers fired into the air to clear the way and pushed back hysterical men and women trying to

reach the scene. A Mercedes packed with explosives blew up on a corner at a narrow junction in the busy Al Basta district packed with the

new year shoppers. The blast heavily damaged five buildings and wrecked about 15 apartments and two dozen cars. A butchery, a bakery and a small supermarket were gutted by the

explosion and fires. Streets were blocked by toppled power lines and poles, debris and burning cars.

Hospitals, which made radio appeals for blood donations, said 15 people were killed and 114

were wounded. The car, packed with what one

police expert said was about 100 kilogrammes of explosives, went off at the height of the morning rush hour, only about 50 metres from a Syrian army checkpoint.

"I must have walked right past it. I reached the apartment when the pressure of the blast smashed in the windows and knocked me over," said Mohammad Salman, adding that he had only returned from Australia to visit his parents

for the new year. "This is a residential area. Poor people. I dared come back as I thought the war was over. It isn't," said the 24-year-old student, adding that he would leave Lebanon as soon as possible.

The car was parked about 25 metres from a school, which had its windows blown in. Residents said casualties would have been much higher but it was closed for Christmas and the new year.

The area, with narrow streets plastered with peeling posters of the late Iranian leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, is a stronghold of Lebanon's pro-Iranian Hizbollah (Party of God). The bombing was a severe

(Continued on page 2)

Iraqi premier challenges opposition to launch coup

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq's prime minister has challenged opposition figures to carry out threats to launch a coup against President Saddam Hussein.

"Let them come if they are courageous enough to try their luck," Prime Minister Mohammad Hamza Al Zubaidi said-Monday when asked about threats to topple the Iraqi leader. The prime minister was speaking to reporters at the opening of

a museum repaired after being damaged during the Gulf war. Exiled opposition leaders and Iraqi Kurdish leader Jalal Talabani have repeatedly called for the overthrow of President Saddam. whose army crushed rebellions in the Shiite south and Kurdish

north after the Gulf war. Iraqi Shiite opposition leader Ayatollah Mohammad Bager Al Hakim last week invited leading dissidents to Syria to discuss ou-

sting the Saddam government. The government retains such a tight grip on the military that Baghdad-based diplomats discount the possibility of an army

revolt against him. But the president and the official press have devoted unusual

attention to talk of a coup in the past two weeks.

"The so-called 'Iraqi democrats' are warning us of torture, burning of our bodies and setting us on fire alive," President Saddam's Press Secretary Abdul-Jabbar Mohsen wrote this week in the Babil newspaper.

"But we have no reason to fear

as long as God is our guardian and the people are led by the hero of the Arabs," he said. President Saddam himself in a recent one-hour address on television joked with his officers ab-

out rumours of a coup, saying he would oblige the West by helping them lead one. Iraq is believed to have stepped up searches for weapons recently in cities including Baghdad and

the traditionally-stable northern city of Mosul. A Baghdad school in a Shifte area was shut down last week and children sent home for the day while troops searched for weapons hoarded after the Gulf

war, residents said. Travellers crossing into Kurdistan from Mosul this week said checkpoints and exhaustive house-to-house searches have in-

creased dramatically over the past few days. A U.N. source in Baghdad said on Monday that Iraqi soldiers had begun strictly enforcing checks at Faida, north of Mosul.

The checkpoints are to prevent weapons from going south and food and fuel from going north under Baghdad's two-month-old blockade of autonomy-seeking Iragi Kurdistan. At another checkpoint 15

kilometres north of Mosul last week, armed soldiers searched a kilometre-long line of cars. Mr. Zubaidi repeated the Iraqi government's denial that Baghdad was blockading the north but indicated that Baghdad was

pressuring the restive Kurds. "We have not imposed a blockade on northern Iraq... but in the light of the circumstances Iraq is passing through and the actions of some irresponsible elements in the area, certainly then we have

to protect our people." "We are ready," he said, "when things are stable and everyone goes back to his senses. We are ready to cooperate with all good people."

pin hopes on absent voters demand freedom for its jailed leaders and name detained Presi-

hope that five million Algerians who abstained in the first round minister. of the general election will reverse the Muslim fundamentalist after the second round, Mr. "Don't panic," urged Socialist

Forces Front (FFS) chief Hocine Ait Ahmad, whose party won 20 of the 206 seats for which provisional results have been declared in Algeria's first free parliamentary election. "For us the point of no return

ALGIERS (R) — Stunned secu-

lar parties are clinging to the

tide in a second ballot.

has not yet been reached..." he told a news conference. Campaigning starts next Saturday for the second round on Jan. 16 between the two leading candidates in seats where none gained

Only three parties won seats outright, out of 49 which took part in Thursday's poll. Provisional results gave the

50 per cent of the vote.

Islamic Salvation Front (FIS), which is dedicated to changing Algeria into an Islamic state, 167 seats in the 430-seat parliament. Leading FIS member Abdui Kader Moghni told the French daily Liberation the FIS would

dent Abassi Madani as prime Asked what the FIS would do

Moghni said: "We will start by demanding the release of our imprisoned brothers, particularly Abassi Madani and Ali Belhadj. Mr. Madani and Mr. Belhadi have been detained since clashes in June between FIS militants and security forces.

The FIS has at least 171 candidates in the second ballot, competing mainly against 158 from the National Liberation Front (FLN). The FLN, which ruled a one-party state from independence in 1962, won just 16 seats

THe FFS has at least 13 seats in the runofff. Mr. Ait Ahmad called for a

national march in Algiers on Thursday to "save democracy, saying the FIS advance was only relative.

He pointed out that the FIS had won around three million votes compared to five million at local elections in 1990 when it

seized control of over half the municipalities. At a news conference on Sun-

day, provisional FIS leader Abdul Kader Hachani called for reconciliation with FIS opponents and said the party would respect international commitments and abide by the constitution. He also said the FIS might

leave for later its demand for early presidential elections.

Few Western diplomats believe the FIS will stumble at the second round, saying it is not a question of whether it gains a majority in parliament but how big this will Mr. Moghni, himself elected in

tion, which makes the foreign and defence ministries directly dependent on the president. "Islam does not recognise the presidential regime. It only recognises the People's Assembly,

which must take every decision,

starting with the constitution," he

told Liberation.

the first round, said the FIS

wanted to change the constitu-

Lebanon might not attend multilateral talks

CAIRO (AP) — Lebanon will not attend multilateral Middle East peace talks without an Israeli commitment to vacate southern Lebanon and release Lebanese prisoners, a visiting cabinet minister said Monday.

Marwan Hamadi, Lebanon's finance minister, said only under such conditions would discussions be possible with Israel on economic cooperation.

Multilateral talks to which 32 nations have been invited are to be in Moscow in late January, continuing a peace process sponsored by the United States and the former Soviet Union. Russia stepped into the equation when the Soviet Union disintegrated, and Russian President Boris Yelt-

sin is hosting the talks. Lebanese, Syrians, Jordanians and Palestinians already have held two inconclusive rounds of bilateral talks with separate Israeli delegations, in Madrid and

Washington. Those discussions resume in Washington on Jan. 7. "Lebanon has not yet agreed to attend the third phase of the talks," Mr. Hamadi told repor-

"We are not in a position to discuss with Israel economic cooperation before making sure tangibly that Israel will withdraw from Lebanese lands and will release Lebanese hostages."

He also said Lebanon will sign no peace agreement with Israel unless the Jewish state honours U.N. resolutions by abandoning its self-declared "security zone" in southern Lebanon and returning all other occupied territories to their Arab owners.

The Syrians and Palestinians have also said they will not attend the 32-nation multilaterals, scheduled to resume in Moscow on Jan. 28, unless progress is made on the next bilateral round.

Israeli allies attacked

Lebanese resistance fighters ambushed a patrol of the Israelibacked South Lebanon Army (SLA) early Monday, killing a militiaman and wounding two others, security sources said.

The patrol was entering the southern village of Rshaf inside the "security zone" before dawn when it was attacked by the guerrillas, said one of the sources. "There was a brief exchange of fire. One SLA militiaman was killed and two were wounded,"

said the source, speaking on condition of anonymity. "No post was attacked." A statement released earlier in Beirut by the Islamic Resistance had claimed the guerrillas des-

killing all the militiamen manning Lebanese security sources said Israel in 1985.

another roadside bomb exploded as SLA militiamen passed Monday morning in the village of Kfar Houneh on the edge of the "security zone." There were no immediate reports of casualties.

Israeli gunners on hills over-

looking the area retaliated by

shelling the villages of 'Ain Al

Tineh and Maidoun, the sources

said. Both are strongholds of the pro-Iranian Hizbollah (Party of Witnesses said about 40 shells hit the villages. Some fell about

500 metres short of a Lebanese army post. Hizbollah guerrillas have stepped up raids on Israeli troops and the 3,000-strong SLA in the "security zone" to show its

opposition to the Arab-Israeli peace talks. About 1,000 Israeli soldiers troyed an SLA post in Rshaf, and the SLA patrol the 15kilometre deep zone, set up by

dimond (

each other.

city such as hospitals, the port

and airport as well as "peace

corridors" that would allow food

Two months ago the U.N. said

about 4.5 million people out of a

total population of around six

million faced famine. Deaths

would increase if security could

not be restored to allow emergen-

"If the food situation is not

solved in Mogadishu then the

fighting will not stop," an official

of the International Committee

of the Red Cross told Reuters.

Clash in north

Fighting broke out Monday in

a Red Sea port in secessionist

northern Somalia, and a United

Nations official said the clash

"We understand a unit went to

the barracks and the soldiers

there refused to leave," said the

official, who spoke on condition

of anonymity. "We don't know

whether it was supposed to be a

routine rotation or the units sup-

ported different political fac-

on casualties in the fighting in the

port of Berbera and said all relief

workers had been told to stay

controlled by the Somali National

Movement, seceded from south-

ern Somalia in May and calls

itself the Somaliland republic.

The situation has generally been

The Somali National Move-

ment, which draws most of its

support from the northern Isaak

clan, took up arms in 1983 and is

the oldest of the insurgent groups

that fought to oust Mr. Siad

boundaries are those of the for-

mer British Somaliland — a pro-

Italian Somaliland in 1960 to

The secessionist government

has been seeking international

with the Soviets, the military aid

"pipeline" between Pakistan and

Afghanistan is to be cut off by

Jan. 1. Pakistan has been the rebel

headquarters and transit point for

As for the Russian side, one

official said, "there has been a

significant fall off in their assist-

ance" in the weeks preceding the

have been told that Russian fuel

deliveries to the leftist govern-

ment in Kabul also will be sus-

pended even though that step is

not required under the Septem-

The fate of Afghanistan was

once a major security concern to

Moscow but that has all changed

now since the Soviet Union has

been replaced by the common-

The main Russian concern in

Afghanistan nowadays is to

obtain an accounting for the 300

Twelve years ago last Friday

then-President Leonid Brezhnev

dispatched what was to become a

force of more than 100,000 troops

estimated soldiers missing.

wealth of independent states.

Leaders of the rebel movement

U.S. aid deliveries for years.

form the country Somalia.

involvement in Afghanistan

deadline.

ber agreement.

The Somaliland republic's

peaceful.

Northern Somalia, which is

The official had no information

appeared to be between two army

to cross battle lines.

cy food distribution.

OAU, U.N. start peace efforts in Somalia

NAIROBI (R) — The Organisation of African Unity (OAU) wants to send a special delegation to the Somali capital Mogadishu to try to persuade warring factions there to end six weeks of. fierce clan battles, it said Mon-

"The objective of the mission is ... to explore possibilities of a ceasefire in Mogadishu so as to pave the war for a dialogue and peaceful resolution to the tragic conflict in Somalia," said an OAU statement released in Nairobi.

An ethnic power struggle between rival warlords Mohammad Farah Aideed and Ali Mahdi Mohammad has killed and wounded an estimated 20,000 people since Nov. 17, according to the United Nations.

Earlier this month. OAU Secretary-General Salim Ahmad Salim broke the African body's 11-month silence on the carnage in Somalia, offering to mediate in peace talks and adding that a peace-keeping force could be sent in if invited.

The OAU statement said that "one of the parties" had said it would receive the delegation and that it was still waiting to hear from the other one.

OAU officials refused to give further details but diplomatic sources said General Aideed had rejected the OAU proposal.

U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar also said last week he was sending help to Mogadishu.

Special U.N. emissary James Jonah was scheduled to fly into the city of Friday to meet Gen. Aideed and Mr. Ali Mahdi to discuss the revival of desperatelyneeded relief operations that have been disrupted by fighting.

A ceasefire between the rival clan fighters was set to begin later on Monday. But several truces have already been broken.

Aid workers in contact by satellite telephone with the Indian Ocean port city said house-tohouse gun battles were still raying but the heavy mortar bombardments had died down.

An estimated 100,000 civilans have fled the city to escape fighting and look for food in surrounding rural areas. About 8,000 tonges of relief

food have been stranded for two __tectorate that joined with the months in the port's docks where a faction in control of the area has ... refused to release it, an aid worker said.

"Food is a kind of power." the

WASHINGTON (AP) — The

12-year conflict in Afghanistan

enters a new phase Wednesday

with the formal end of all U.S.

and Soviet military involvement

after years of each side support-

September by the Bush adminis-

tration and leaders of the former

Soviet Union. U.S. officials are

confident that both sides will

Nonetheless, there is no early end

to the fighting in sight as the

leftist government in Kabul and

the anti-communist rebel move-

ment have yet to open peace talks

despite intensive United Nations

been killed in the war, with more

than three million maimed or

wounded and five million dis-

placed to exile in Pakistan and

Iran. One in every three refugees

identified, said the last of the

U.S. deliveries to the rebels ar-

rived in Pakistan sometime in

October. Under the agreement

U.S. officials, asking not to be

worldwide is an Afghan.

An estimated 1.5 million have

adhere to the agreement.

The deadline was set in

ing rival factions.

mediation efforts.

Border talks with Oman spark row aid worker added. "They are in Yemen literally fighting over it."

The Horn of Africa nation has ADEN, Yemen (R) — A row has been plunged into anarchy since broken out in Yemen over suspiguerrillas ousted dictator cions that the government is ab-Mohammad Siad Barre last Januout to sign away 15,000 square ary and then turned to fighting kilometres of territory to neighbouring Oman before a new con-U.N. proposals include the stitution takes full effect. creation of neutral zones in the

Political parties and organisations in the southeastern border province of Al Mahra said in a joint statement last week a draft border agreement included the territorial concession.

"We hold the leadership responsible for the results if the opinion of the province's people is not considered," it added. President Ali Abdullah Saleh

said earlier this month the two countries would sign a formal border demarcation agreement before the end of this year. But the government denies any

deal is ready for signing. A Foreign Ministry official told Reuters Monday that the negotiations with Oman had not ended. "Yemeni-Omani talks on demarcating the borders will resume

early next year." he added. One of the main opposition parties, the Yemeni Unionist Party, has attacked the alleged border agreement on the grounds that the government is only tran-

It is operating under a constitution drawn up when North and South Yemen united in a single state in May 1990. The constitution does not take full effect until after general elections in Novem-

The territory in question is in what used to be South Yemen, while the unified state is dominated by the more populous North.

Yemeni Unionist Party said the present government did not have the constitutional right to decide on matters of national sovereignty.

present authority bears full responsibility for the consequences (such as) the squandering of rights or national sovereignty," it said in a state-The party said the government

should publish details of the border talks with Oman so that people would be able to say what they thought of any agreement. South Yemen, which was the Arab World's only Marxist state,

backed separatist guerrillas across the border in southern Oman during the 1960s and

to put down an uprising against

the communist regime in Kabul

that was installed in April 1978.

The last of the Soviet troops were

withdrawn from Afghanistan in

The Afghan issue was one of

many during the .1980's that

brought the United States and the

Soviet Union into an increasingly

bitter rivalry. President Jimmy

Carter authorised a covert opera-

Nations such as Iran, Pakistan

and Saudi Arabia are believed

to be sending weaponry

into Afghanistan, ignoring U.S.

Aggravating the situation has

been an increasing tendency

among rival factions of the rebel

movement to fight one another in

have not begun is that the rebeis

have refused talks with repre-

sentatives of Afghan President

Najibullah. As U.S. officials see

it, the peace process can make

headway only when all outside

military assistance to the various

factions ceases.

The main reason peace talks

a bid for military supremacy.

appeals for a cutoff.

tion to aid the Afghan rebels.

February 1989.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Dealers offer Israel sophisticated weapons

TEL AVIV (AP) — Arms dealers fi de former Soviet Union are offering Israel weapons traditionally sold to Arab countries, including advanced warplanes, a newspaper reported Monday. The Haaretz daily wrote that the "surprising offers" include weapons Israel once lacked any information about, those considered top secret and supplied only to elite Red Army units. Among the items on the list are advance MiG-29 fighter planes supplied to Syria and an advanced ground-to-air radar missile system, the newspaper said. The defence ministry declined comment on the report. Israel could use some weapons for intelligence purposes but has little operational need for them since it is well-equipped with advance U.S.-made armaments, the Haaretz daily wrote. The uncertainty surrounding the military industries in the former Soviet Union, due to the economic and political upheaval in the newly independent republics is another deterrent for purchasing these weapons, the paper said. The dealers are offering unusually low prices compared to similar Western-made weapons systems, but also insist on being paid in cash, Haaretz said. "It is possible theoretically to purchase Soviet arms systems for intelligence reasons only, in order to study them and be able to develop counter-defence systems," reporter Reuven Pedhatzur, the newspaper's military correspondent, wrote.

Iran plans more Afghan relief flights

NICOSIA (R) — Iran, which angered Kabul last month by air-dropping food in central Afghanistan, said on Monday it planned further relief operations for hungry Afghans. Seifollah Vahid-Dastjerdi, head of Iran's Red Crescent society, said Tehran would send planes as soon as Islamabad agreed to its request for permission to airlift supplies to Afghan refugees in Pakistan. Vahid Dastjerdi, quoted by the official Iranian news agency IRNA, said Iran planned to send relief supplies to Afghanistan but did not elaborate. Last month an Iranian transport plane dropped food over the Afghan city of Damiyan in an attempt to prevent an exodus of tribesmen from the central Hazarajat region where there are severe shortages. A week later the Afghan foreign ministry issued a statement warning that no unauthorised aircraft would be allowed to enter Afghanistan's airspace. It said no country had a right to carry out relief operations in Afghanistan without Kabul's permission. About five million refugees from the civil war in Afghanistan live in Iran and Pakistan.

Palestinians recognise former Soviet republics

TUNIS (AP) — The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) on Sunday officially recognised the 15 republics of the former Soviet Union as independent states. The PLO's decision-making Executive Committee called for the new states to take up an active role in the Middle East peace process, according to the Palestinian news agency WAFA. The WAFA communique expressed hope the new states can "overcome their difficulties and be able to contribute to international stability." The Soviet Union was the official cosponsor, with the United States, of historic Middle East peace talks that opened in Madrid in October and continued last month in

Two Americans said held in Iraq

KUWAIT (R) — Two Americans who disappeared on the Kuwaiti frontier more than three weeks ago are being held in Iraq, the U.S. embassy said Monday. An embassy spokesman refused to give the names, occupations or any other details of the men who vanished on Dec. 4. The confirmation that they were held in Iraq was the first public comment on their fate since they vanished on Dec. 4. Iraq has made no mention of their detention. American diplomats were first alerted to the disappearance when one of the men's friends telephoned the embassy to say the two had not returned from a trip to the border. An embassy spokesman said on Dec. 8 that the men were on a business trip.

Hashish, heroin seized Deadline brings end to military in Lebanon drug haul

BEIRUT (AP) — Police on Sunday seized 700 kilogrammes of hashish and 20 kilogrammes of heroin in major haul that signalled a new effort to throttle one of the world's main sources of narconcs.

Police chief Mohammad Kobrosli estimated the street value of the drugs seized at \$3.5 million. He gave no details of the opera-

But a police spokesman, who could not be named in line with standing regulations, said an army soldier, Elie Najjar, was arrested in the operation during which there was a brief exchange of fire.

"This was the biggest amount of heroin ever seized in Lebanon," said the spokesman.

He said police raided Mr. Najjar's hideout in a Christian neighbourhood of Beirut as he was readying the narcotics for shipment to the United States and the Netherlands.

He had most of the drugs concealed in six barrels, said the

policeman. Mr. Najjar tried to evade arrest by engaging the policemen in a shootout, but they overwhelmed him. The spokesman reported no casualties.

He said Mr. Najjar had been under police surveillance for some time.

On Saturday, customs officers at Beirut airport arrested two , men trying to smuggle 865 grammes of heroin to Canada and Australia. Lebanon is one of the world's

primary sources of hashish. It

produces 700-800 tonnes of the

drug a year. During the civil war years, several heroin processing plants were established in the country. Syrian troops, in Lebanon to help the government restore law

and order after 16 years of war. have been destroying hashish plantations in east Lebanon. A few months ago, Syrian

tanks, trucks, bulldozers and armoured personnel carriers were seen driving through the fields of the Bekaa Valley, trashing hundreds of acres of hashish planta-

Also, Syrian authorities have reported seizing hundreds of kilogrammes of hashish, smuggled from Lebanon into Syria for export to the Gulf.

Kuwaiti opposition aims for democracy in 1992

KUWAIT (R) — Opposition leaders said Monday 1992 would be the year of political confrontation with the government over democracy in Kuwait.

The first free elections for the National Assembly in seven years are due next October. They were promised by the emir, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, after the U.S.-led allies liberated Kuwait from seven months of Iraqi occupation in February.

"The year 1992 is the year of confrontation for democracy, Ahmad Al Dayeen, a leader of the liberal Kuwait Democratic Forum (KDF), told Reuters. "The elections are a chance for an offensive for democracy." "The main concern in Kuwait

now is the restoration of democracy and the release of the freedoms of press and speech." said KDF chief Abdullah Al Nibari. Although a monarchy controlled by the Sabah family, Kuwait has had a lively parliament for

most of the time since independ-

ence in 1961. "The fight next year is a fight for the protection of the constitution ... and its reimplementation which would lead to the reactivation of the legislative bodies," Mr. Nibari said.

The ruling family wanted to preserve its privileges and remain above the law, both unconstitutional and unacceptable to Khwaitis, he said.

The opposition wanted social, educational and administrative reforms and implementation of the constitution as well as lifting of censorship.

Mr. Dayeen said the opposition did not challenge the right of the Sabahs to rule but it wanted a bigger role in governing the coun-

Diplomats said the opposition had so far failed to make any gains since liberation. Although the general public was critical of the government it had not swung

behind the opposition. "The government has succeeded in pulling the rug from under the feet of the opposition, one diplomat said.

The diplomats expected the elections to be free and fair but said chances were slim of a largely disorganised opposition gaining a majority.

Ahmad Baqr, leader of the Muslim fundamentalist movement Al Salaf, acknowledged the opposition groups had failed to achieve any of their goals since liberation.

"When Kuwait was born again after liberation we did not wish to escalate due to the security situation and the preoccupation of citizens in restoring their normal lives," he said.

But he hinted the opposition's patience was running out - "if we see that our national obligation requires us to escalate, then we will, but peacefully."

The opposition leaders the government was able to manipulate the elections by changing electoral districts and keeping voters sweet with pay rises and financial

Mr. Nibari said he hoped this would cause an election backlash. "We are banking on the government's mistake.

Iran eases, slightly, its standoff with Swiss embassy

GENEVA (AP) — Iran stopped searching Swiss diplomats entering their embassy in Tehran on Monday, but otherwise continued restrictions on the staff that prevented a diplomat from leaving Sunday on vacation, Bern officials said.

Meanwhile, Zeyal Sarhadi, the Iranian whose arrest in Bern last Monday set off the latest tensions between Switzerland and Iran formally filed a request that he be released from custody.

Switzerland closed the embassy on Sunday indefinitely because of the Iranian restrictions, which in the process shut off the United States' interest section in Tehran. The Swiss have represented U.S. concerns in Tehran since the 1979 occupation of the American embassy there. White House spokesman Mar-

lin Fitzwater said the United States still has other channels of communication with Iran. Algeria also acts as a go-between: it administers the Iranian interest section in Washington.

Switzerland's foreign interest section, which also handles South African affairs, makes up a large part of the Tehran embassy, said Foreign Ministry spokesman Marco Cameroni.

The foreign section consists of three Swiss and seven local employees, he said. The embassy has eight diplomats altogether.

Iran claims Mr. Sarbadi is an employee of the Bern embassy and is thus immune from arrest, but the Swiss say he entered Switzerland on a tourist visa last September and has never been registered with them as a diplomat or embassy employee. They acknowledge that he has been

federal court on Mr. Sarhadi's request was unlikely. Swiss authorities have a chance to respond, and France has until Jan. 10 to file a request for the extradi-

with the slaying of an exiled Iranian leader.

the Iranian guards outside. embassy, however, still are

Spirits of the embassy staff remained good, however, Mr. Haffner said. The exception was Christa Felder, the diplomat who was prevented from leaving on Sunday, Mr. Haffner said. She was to begin her honeymoon, he

diplomatic passport, but the embassy was allowed to pick it up from the airport several hours

The Swiss arrested Mr. Sarhadi

Shah's final prime minister, was killed at his home near Paris last Aug. 6.

Torkan left Doha Monday following military and economic talks with Qatari officials, the Qatari News Agency reported. Mr. Torkan, on his first visit to Qatar, had talks with Qatari Crown Prince and Defence Minister Sheikh Hamad Ben Khalifa Al Thani and inspected air and naval bases and Qatari plants and factories.

Among the survivors three year-old girl, cluts piece of chocolate in he which was covered with

staying at the embassy. An immediate decision by the tion of the Iranian, whom the French have sought in connection

In Tehran Swiss Charge d'Affires Walter Haffner said in a telephone interview with the Associated Press' Swiss service that Swiss employees of the embassy were allowed on Monday to enter the embassy without being searched or questioned by

Iranian employees of the ched and put through long interrogations, as they have been since

last week, said Mr. Haffner.

added. The Iranians confiscated her

at the request of France, who issued an international warrant accusing him of renting apartments and providing other assistance for the killers of an exiled Iranian leader. Shahpour Bakhtiar, the late

Iran's defence minister ends Qatar visit

MANAMA. Bahrain, (R) — Iran's Defence Minister Akbar

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

Tel: 773111-19 PROGRAMME TWO

JORDAN TELEVISION

Special programme for New Year 19:00 News in French 19:30 News in Hebrew 20:59 News in Arabic. 2 .70 Evening shade ` Derrick News in English Facture Film: "Captain Couragious

PRAYER THES 04:54 Fajr

24:09 Concert by Belinda Carlisle

06:16 (Sunrise) Duha 14:12 'Ast 16:36 Maghreb CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swelfielt. Tel. 810740 Assemblies of God Church, Tel. St. Joseph Cherch Tel. 624590. Charch of the Assenciation Tcl.

De la Salle Church Tel. 661757 Terresante Church Tel: 622366 Church of the Americation Tel. Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. Armenian Catholic Church Tci. Armenian Orthodex Church Tel. St. Ephraine Church Tel. 771751. Ammen International Church Tel. Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel: The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saluta Tel. 823824, 654932. Charch of the Nazarene Tel. 675691.

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of It will be cold, cloudy, and rainy and winds will be southwesterly fresh. In Anaba, it will be partly cloudy and rainy at times and winds will be southerly fresh and seas rough. Min./Max. termo Amman 3/8 Agaba 5/15

Deserts 2/10

Jordan Valley 7/15

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 11, Agaba 16. Humidity readings: Amman 71 per cent, Aqaba 40 per **USEFUL TELEPHONE**

NUMBERS **NIGHT DUTY** AMMAN: Dr. Khalid Mu'addi 743500 Dr. Khafil Abdo 795392 Dr. Abbas Al Hakim 891256 Dr. Ghaleb Zawaideh 736123

Al Salam pharmacy 636730 Yacoub pharmacy 644945 Shmeisani pharmacy 637660 Dr. Radwan Al Sead (-) Al Sharas' pharmacy (275825)

Firas pharmacy 661912

Ferdows pharmacy 778336

Al Asema pharmacy 637055

Naironkh pharmacy 623672

ZARQA: Dr. Akram Haddad (---Khalifeh pharmacy 985417 **EMERGENCIES**

Food Control Centre 637111 Civil Defence Department 661111 Civil Defence immediate Rescue,...... 630341 Civil Defence Emergency 199

Rescue Police, 192, 621111, 637777

Fire Brigsdc...... 891228

Blood Bank 775121

Highway Police 843402 Public Security Department 630321 Water and Sewerage Complaints 897467 Amman Municipality Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121 Overseas Calls

Central Amman Telephone Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101 Jordan Television 773111 Water Authority 680100 Jordan Electricity Authority ... 815615 Electric Power Сопралу RJ Flight Information 08-53200

Queen Alia Intl. Airport..... 08-53200 HOSPITALS

AMMAN: Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32 Khalidi Maternity, J. Ann ... 644281/6 Akilch Maternity, J. Amn.... 642441/2 Jabal Amman Maternity...... 642362 Mathas, J. Amman 636140 Palestine Shmeisani 664171/4 Shmeisani Hospital 669131 University Hospital Al-Muzsher Hospital 667227/9 The Islamic, Abdali 666127/37 Al-Ahli, Abdali 6641646 Italian, Al-Muhajreen 777101/3

Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafich 775111/26 Army, Marka 891611/15 Queen Alia Hospital 602240/50 Amal Hospital 674155 ZARQA: Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983323 Zarga National Hospital .. (09)900560 Do Sina Hospital (09)986732 Al Hikma Modern Hospital (09)990990

Princess Haya Hospital(03)314111 FOR THE TRAVELLER QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

Princess Basma Hospital

The Al Nafees Hospital ...

Greek Catholic Hospital

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Opeen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)53200-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

99:55	,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,	Muscat, Deb
05.50 ,	D	oha, Bahrai
17:55	New Yo	XX, Montres fore Palacas
19:20		Tripo

19:35 Beirut (ME) II:05 Bucharest (MS) DEPARTURES

Royal Jo (Termin	ordanian (RJ) Filg al 1)
97:00	Aqaba
10:30	London
10:40	Tripoli
11:00	Vicena, Frankfuri
11:10	Belernde Madeld
11:30	Amsterdam, New York
11:45	Rome Madrid
11:50	Geneva, Paris
28:00	····· Jeddah
20:15	Dhahran
	Abu Dabai, Dubai
	AND DEUT, DESE
	The -
	Damascus

Interior Minister Sani told reporters at the s Monday's blast that is tions would begin immed track down the culprit. "We don't know when

Beirut bon

(Continued from

blow to a renewed the

security in Lebanon.

It was the bloodies

Lebanon since 15 year

war ended in October

with the ousting of rebe

Michel Aoun by Sy

Explosives packed

wrecked the administrate

at the American University

Beirut on Nov. 8, killing

tor. There was no claim

sponsibility for that his

Israeli agents were repi

have been behind it.

Lebanese troops.

government

find him, but I promise he hanged here at the scene crime," he said. The bomb carved a cra metres deep on Mamoun one block from the F barracks where pro-Irani damentalists once held ped Western hostages.

The Syrian army, wrested the barracks fr Hizbollah in 1987, has abandoned the barracks "Is this a new year Where is the governme what happened to the p that peace has finally bro in Lebanon?" sobbed M Chehab, 47, whose son was injured in the blast,

"One becomes disguste ing in such a place," he "Animals elsewhere are much better." Hospitals blared radio for blood donations asworkers sifted through the

es. She was dug out of the in a state of shock. Settlers

open fire (Continued from page ties, members of Mr. S coalition, have threatened

against the budget when i before parliament if refu extra funds Their demands took of weight following the resi of Agriculture Minister

Eitan, which weakened h mir's majority from 66 t the 120-member Knesset The Dec. 31, deadline sing the budget is also be

up by demands from parties. If Mr. Shamir fai a majority vote for the bu will probably have to re The daily Haaretz r that Finance Minister Modai agreed to pay an er

million shekels (\$326 mill an additional 5,000 house in the occupied territor The increase means tw of government-sponsored ing would be built in the o

West Bank and Gaz Str A finance ministry spot confirmed the Tehiy Moledet parties had re extra funding for settleme declined to comment on w

promised.

Dedi Zucker, lawmak the Citizen's Rights Mo which opposes the settle said the agreement was si worked out. He said the parties had ded 5,000 additional units

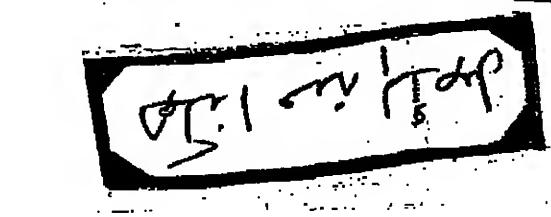
in the occupied territori

year. The finance minist spoken in the past of I 3,000-4,000 in 1992. Mr. Zucker said the ago will "severely endang chances of getting the guarantees from the-States and will prove to the what the Shamir gove

really means when it says f Other Flights (Termina

MARKET PRICE Upper/lower price in file Banana (Mukammar)..... Cocumbers (large)

Carrot Canliflowr Cucumbers (small) Marrow (large)
Marrow (small) Okra Onion (dry) Oranges Pepper (hot)
Pepper (sweet)
Potato



UNRWA employees hold

sit-in, demand pay increase

said Ali Abdul Malik, who

UNRWA workers and

teachers were offered two in-

creases in salaries while those

of other areas in UNRWA

received several increases dur-

ing the same period," he said

in interview with the Jordan

received some 40 per cent.

those in Lebanon 25 per cent

and the West Bank and the

Gaza Strip 25 per cent," he

men, we expressed our dismay

over this issue and demanded

that our salaries be increased

to at least the same level with

those of the our colleagues in

Dennis Brown, the UN-

RWA director in Jordan, has

been handed the cable to for-

ward it to Vienna, Mr. Malik

said. "We hope that our right-

ful demand will be met as soon

He said that the workers and

as possible," be added.

Protestors staging hunger strike,

other areas," he said.

"In our cable to Mr. Turk-

"UNRWA workers in Syria

Times.

"Between 1979 and 1991

represents the teachers group.

government grows prior to budget approval

MMMAN (J.T.) — The Lower latouse of Parliament's approval of the 1992 fiscal budget Monday followed two days of intense de-

October the Company of the Company o in by the for their constituencies, critihased the government for its performance in implementing past bodgets. Criticism ranged from rican in projects to lack of proper ov. 8 treed projects to lack of proper was no dispervision of some government for the separaments.

Deputy Attta Al Shawan hemphasised in his address the need for maintaining the larongest possible cooperation last the fine the legislative and executhe coming the budget for

He criticised the budget for at the giving more allocations and attensaid of focusing on an expansion of emoduction. He said that more on Martention should have been given ere products in industry and agriculture with absorb more unemployed peo-

barrack puty Abdul Aziz Jaber asked that the kithe government give more attenthe band non to medical care and schools a new Rawhile deputies Nayef Al Hadid he goes and Hamzen Mansour called for ned in the in end to the two-shift school ies finally extern. They called on the govsolbel symmett to build hospitals at the . Whose w Sahab and Muwaqqar regions in in the southern Amman and to carry ones descent the electrification of the rea place, maining parts of the rural areas of Sewhere a. Jordan.

Deputy Ahmad Al Abbadi calblared no led on the government to live up donation in its promises of dealing with the ed through guestions of poverty, unemployhe surme ment and soaring prices as well as old gil, c. lordan's external debts. He ocolate in protect, that the government has evered recently received JD 14 million in dug our grand from the United States, which if shock were never spent on small-sized meome generating projects to rether duce unemployment and poverty. He demanded that the governen fir ment provide the House with

ed from pass spent. Deputy Yousef Al Azm spoke on behalf of all deputies from the ers of Mr. Maan Governorate, demanding ve threatent that the government direct atten-Judget whater, road and other



Lower House of Parliament members discussed the proposed 1992 budget Monday. Some members, in addition to calling for specific

municipal services in the Maan

and Agaba regions. He also cal-

led on the government to develop

the health centre at Wadi Mousa

into a hospital and for the Nation-

al Aid Fund to be made to cover a

wider sector of the population.

affairs and finance as well as the

radio and television corporation

and the Civil Aviation Authority.

He demanded that the Audit

Bureau impose stricter control on

Deputy Mahmoud Al Hweimel

drew attention to the school

dropouts in the Jordan Valley

region and demanded that the

education process in the rural

regions be developed. He called

for farmers' debts to be resche-

duled to improve their living con-

referred to the country's foreign

debts and criticised the govern-

ment for planning to get more

loans in order to pay part of the

external debts and services on

the effectiveness of the economic

restructuring programme agreed

Mr. Ekour cast doubt about

Deputy Abdul Rahim Ekour

their financial operations.

pervision.

ditions.

Deputy Fuad AF Khalafat

with the International Monetary Fund (IMF). He said that the IMF had imposed this programme not for the sake of reforming the national economy, noting that many Third World countries following the advice of the IMF had fallen deeper, in debt and are now facing deteriorating econo-

urged the government to place the qualified people in governmic conditions. ment positions, especially those Referring to unemployment, with decision-making powers. he said that it was regrettable to The next stage, he said, requires see a lack of equal opportunities careful planning and feasible for all people seeking jobs in the programmes with the government country. Appointment in governmaintaining strict control and sument offices hinges on the whims and desires of the influential The deputy criticised financial decision-makers who tend to practices by some departments favour their relatives and friends. like the ministries of foreign

Deputy Ahmad Dafawin urged the government to give more attention to agriculture. Many state-owned lands in the Karak region remain undeveloped while no move is being made to drill artesian wells in those regions to irrigate the land, he said.

The deputy urged the government to give attention to the Wadi Ben Hamad, Karak and Lejoun regions in southern Jordan. Mr. Kafawin also made demands for improvements of the education, health and municipal services in the south.

Deputies from the Zarqa area presented a set of demands to the government calling for the establishment of sports facilities and demanding that municipalities and village councils be offered greater assitance.

They also demanded that a new garbage dump be found away



.

projects, questioned the government's fiscal responsibility (photo by Yousef Al 'Allan)

from the present one near Ruseifa to prevent pollution of the atmosphere and called on the government to impose stricter control over the various factories within the Zarqa region.

The deputies noted that poverty and unemployment were widespread in the Zarqa region and called on the government to increase social development services to needy families. These deputies named 10 villages and rural settlements which still lack electricity and demanded that health services be upgraded in their region.

Deputy Nader Dhuheirat called for solving problems facing areas in the Jordan Valley and urged it to convert several rural councils to municipal councils. He also called for setting up dams in areas exposed to floods in winter and for increasing the number of water pumps installed on the Wadi Al Arab Dam.

Mr. Dhuheirat also asked the government to increase the quota of the regions of Al Koura and the northern Jordan Valley in university seats and to augment the number of scholarships for the two regions. Deputy Ahmad Al Kofahi

asked the government to tackle the problems of unemployment, poverty, high prices and indebtedness and urged it to stabilise the Jordanian dinar's exchange rate and decrease foreign im-

Dr. Kofahi, a Muslim Brotherhood member from Irbid, called

for carrying out the King Abdullah Hospital Project, expanding health centres, completing the agricultural roads network, developing the telephone services in addition to supporting municipal and rural councils in Irbid Gov-

Deputy Nayef Al Hadid called for solving the basic problems plaguing Jordanian society such as unemployment and poverty. and for achieving balance between the society's various sectors and supporting the armed

He stressed the importance of cooperation between the legislative and executive authorities and affirmed the need to support the executive authority to enable it to carry out plans and projects mentioned in its 1992 general budget and to help it overcome economic challenges and external press-

He criticised the increasing number of universities and institutes, whether public or private, and said these educational institutions were not established randomly. He said that such universities and institutes contributed only to increasing the number of the unemployed in Jordan.

Deputy Ibrahim Ghababsheh called for listing the country's debts in an appendix added to the general budget draft law to facilitate the process of following it up. He requested the establishment of earth dams in the southern parts of Jordan and said that such dams are of strategic importance

sit-in against U.N. embargo on Iraq By Nur Sati children are suffering and they are looking for peace." Special to the Jordan Times The United Nations Chil-Following are major ex-AMMAN — Two people who dren' Fund (UNICEF), which have been staging a hunger has been conducting humanitastrike against the U.N. sancrian relief programmes to Iraq tions on Iraq have been admitsince the Gulf war ended, has ted to a hospital, officials said.

The two, part of a group of 20 people who have been conducting sit-ins in front of the United Nations beadquarters in Shmeisani, were admitted to the hospital Sunday, officials said. No further information on their condition was avail-

By Elia Nasrallah

Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Committees rep-

resenting some 6,000 em-

ployees of the United Nations

Relief and Works Agency

(UNRWA) in Jordan Monday

staged a one-hour sit-in at the

agency's headquarters in Am-

man and handed to the agency

director a cable which they

demanded be sent to UNRWA

Commissionner General Ilter

motivated by the workers' de-

mand for better pay and as a

manifestation of their dismay

at the agency's decision to

grant them a mere 4 to 12 per

cent salary increase, consi-

dered far less than expected.

reasonable increase in salaries

in view of the soaring prices

and the general economic

situation, but we have been

granted less increases than our

colleagues in Lebanon, Syria

and the West Bank and Gaza,"

"We expected to get a

The sit-in and the cable were

Turkmen in Vienna.

The strikers, who are mostly Palestinians, Jordanians and Sudanese and are members of the Al Hussein Youth Club, said Sunday they will continue their hunger strike for another three days. In the meantime, they will continue their protests in front of the U.N. headquarters.

"We are going to walk to the U.S. embassy and hand them a leaflet," said Alawi Shedhan, who has been taking part in the sit-ins for the past two week. "We just want to let the world hear our voices - that Iraqi

Valley region.

Governorate.

Monday, stressed the importance

of developing the southern Jor-

dan Valley region and of holding

small projects which could pro-

vide income to the families in the

Al Safi branch in January and

that tenders for the project have

He also lauded the ACC's role

estimated that 87,000 children have died as a result of the embargo.

One of the protestors, a middle-aged man from Sudan. has shaved off his hair and refused to talk to people as a sign of solidarity with the children of Iraq, Mr. Shedhan

"He is reflecting the silence of the Iraqi children," Mr. Shedhan said. Although admitting that he

does not expect much of a reaction from the U.S. embassy, Mr. Shedhan said that he was hoping to draw attention to what is happening in Iraq. "We are looking for a trial to change something which we consider was a dirty war," he

The leaflet, which will also be given to the Chinese, Russian and Egyptian embassies,

and the United States for their roles in enforcing the embargo.

teachers could opt to take

further action should their de-

mands continue to be ignored,

The last time UNRWA em-

ployees took action in demand

for an increase in salaries was

in 1989, after which the agency

conducted a survey of living

standards and gave the

Mr. Malik said that 30 com-

mittes gathered at the agency

headquarters Monday, repre-

senting teachers, workers, and

UNRWA headquarters offi-

were aimed at expressing our

dismay at being treated unfair-

ly and to call on the agency to

reconsider its decision about

the increase," said Mr. Malik.

hope that the agency will now

respond favourably to their de-

mand to avert further com-

plications. He said the agency

staff hope to get an increase

that would help them cope

with the soaring cost of living

in the country.

He said that the workers

'The cable and the sit-in

teachers an increase in pay.

but he gave no details.

cerpts from the leaflet: "U.S. President George Bush is associated with the most heinous outrages and merciless economic embargo against Iraq, the cradle of the world's most ancient civilisa-

tions." "Just as what happened in Hiroshema and Nagasaki, when the United States dropped the first nuclear bombs on purely civilian targets, U.S. warplanes bombed the Amiriya civilian shelter in Baghdad to massacre in cold blood women, children and elderly people. The Amiriya crime was so brutal that it dwarfed Nazi crimes during the Second World War."

"The Amiriya crime has rendered invalid all talk by superpowers about human rights. All the tirades by the U.S. allies and those who supported U.N. resolutions to facilitate aggression against Iraq under the U.N. now amount to no more than political treachery," the leaflet said.

Russian ambassador pledges weakened Strong ties with Jordan ity mon to t

aber Kness AMMAN (J.T.) — Official documents proclaiming the formation 31. deadars of the Commonwealth of Indelget is also be pendent States following the colands from the soviet Union were ir Shamin handed Monday to the Speaker one for the Upper House of Parlialy have benent, Ahmad Al Lawzi, by Rus-W Haard Sian ambassador to Jordan Yuri

e Ministr Griadonov. ed to pay and The ambassador, who repreels (Sibal sents Russia as well as the comal 5.000 he monwealth in Jordan, expressed mied to this country's keenness on pursuing the course of friendly rela-

ase memsisions and close cooperation beent-spoore tween Jordan and the commonbuilt in wealth at all levels. and Gas The Jordan News Agency, Petministrate, said that Mr. Lawzi representhe let led Jordan's determination to

rties had plursue cooperation with the new is for sense commonwealth in the spirit of comment pistice, freedom, peace, U.N. principles and resolutions. The ker. law speaker expressed Jordan's hope

(Centinued from page 1)

repayment of foreign debts will be at

would boost the fund's activities to

cover the widest sector of the needy

iditional incal labour market, he said.

med lene. The prime minister also pointed

finance of out that Jordan is trying to tackle the

the past problem of foreign debts and that

er said the expense of the national reserves

1814 cherwise create more job opportuni-

from Sharif Zeid said his government

vill prove Prould give the Development and

Sharill simpleyment Fund (DEF) a higher would be would be to be proposed in national development and

of more Russian involvement in matters aimed at achieving a just and durable peace in the Middle East in implementation of the international legitimacv and U.N. Security Council resolutions.

peace and serving the national

economic imbalances and achieve a

continued growth through cooperat-

ing with each other, not with interna-

"Turning in on one's self and not

cooperating with the international

community leads to isolation at a time

when he are in dire need of opening

up and exploiting every opportunity

to get out of the current (economic)

prices rise but said government sub-

sidies on basic staples such as bread

and sugar would remain unchanged

and any future measures to increase

revenues through indirect taxes

The reform plan aims at trimming

huge deficits in both the budget and

balance of payments, building up

foreign exchange reserves and en-

couraging more local and foreign

Mr. Jardaneh said Jordan would

seek all ways to involve the interna-

tional community in easing its foreign

Mr. Jardaneh, replying to the de-

mands of many deputies, said the

government would continue to pro-

vide financial assistance to municipal

and rural councils but that the policy

could not continue indefinitely since

previous experience has shown that

such allocations sap the country's

Mr. Jardaneh said that during 1988-

91, the government provided JD38.8

million to these councils to help them

pay their debts or to acquire real

estate for public utilities, but such

assistance has not contributed to solv-

ing the financial problems of the

The government will conduct indi-

vidual studies of the councils prior to

deciding on extending assistance, he

The finance minister, replying to

would not affect the poor.

Mr. Jardaneh did not mention

tional agencies," he said.

crisis," he said.

debt burgen.



Ahmad Al Lawzi

the commonwealth in Jordan.

the deputies point by point, reaf-

firmed the themes he presented along

with the budget to the house earlier

Among the points he mentioned

- The government had shouldered

the cost of setting up telecommunica-

tions projects and of maintaining and

operating them. The charges levied

by the Telecommunication Corpora-

tion are low and the government now

believes that a certain margin of

profit should be derived from the

corporation's operations. Only high-

income groups benefit from the op-

erations that the government has

singled out and therefore any increase

in the cost of such services will not

- The government is working on a

national water strategy, with particu-

lar attention on rationalising the use;

of water. It will impose strict controls

over pollution and the work of waste-

water treatment plants. The 1992

budget allocates JD14 million for

- The government is determined

to encourage savings for investment.

reduce the budget defict and achieve

parity between the current account

and the balance of payment by 1998.

opinion of deputies that the volume

of foreign debts of Jordan has ex-

ceeded safe margins and the cost-

servicing of the debts is too high.

After rescheduling repayment, the

servicing of foreign debts will be 17.4:

per cent of the expected exports and

12.3 per cent of the expected gross

domestic product in 1992. This is an

acceptable ratio, and the government

is cooperating with international

agencies to reschedule or restructure

(convert) debts and reduce interest

porary measure, the government be-

While rescheduling is only a tem-

— The government shares the

hurt the common man.

building dams.

Libyan official calls for Jordanian support against Lockerbie accusations

in the Lockerbie affairs.

"I discussed with the Speaker of the Lower House of Parliament Dr. Abdul Latif Arabivat the open threats directed against two Libyan citizens on the part of Britain, the U.S. and other countries, noting that charges against the Libyans accused of being involved in the crash of the Pan been substantiated," he said.

will be in a better position enough to

meet its obligations when the pay-

A partial write-off of Jordan by the

- The government believes that

the actual subsidy for food and for

production of cereals will be JD48

— The government is giving special

attention to the energy sector

Ninety-seven per cent of population

centres now have power and the rest

will soon be connected with the

national grid depending on the availa-

bility of funds; the Jordan Electricity

Authority has already been granted

— The government believes that

the policy towards community col-

leges should be reviewed with the

objective of averting further unem-

ployment and directing attention to

meeting the needs of the Jordanian

labour market. An ad hoc committee

is studying the situation and program-

mes of public and private community

The government's concern over un-

employment includes all stages of

education. Vocational training has

been increased and diversification of

secondary level education is also

capital expenditure will be tightened

and will be made more efficient and

address the needy areas. The issue

- Farmers have been given ex-

emptions from interests due on loans

from the Agricultural Credit Cor-

poration (ACC) between 1981 and

million and the number of benefi-

ciaries was 25,000. The government

supported the ACC with injections of

will be given continuous attention.

- Regional distribution of the

being carried out.

interest-free loans.

JD2 million for this purpose.

international community is also a

ments come due.

million in 1992.

possibility.

other friendly Arab countries inthe face of all these accusations directed against Libyan citizens.

"Investigations in any country including Libya, have not pointed an accusing finger at any of the Libyan citizens who were unjustly accused of being involved in this tragedy," Mr. Ghuweil said.

Last week, Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi invited the West to send judges to Tripoli to take part in investigations into the alleged implication of two Libyan citizens in the 1988 Pan

The Libyan foreign minister had said that Libya was willing to send judges to Washington, London or Paris to discuss the

expected Wednesday

AMMAN (J.T.) — A white New Year is expected in Jordan with most hilly areas expected to be covered with snow Wednesday and Thursday as a new cold air mass will be affecting the country and the rest of the eastern Mediterranean region, according to the Department of Meteorolo-

The Department director, Dr. Ali Abanda, told the Jordan News Agency, Petra, that the cold front will be accompanied by a very cold polar wind bringing in heavy rains which will start in the north, gradually extending to other areas of the Kingdom.

The very cold wind will cause continue for three days, said Dr. Abanda. Department officials later told the Jordan Times that the means all regions in and around the capital, which is more than

probably receive snow. Department officials said that some rain will fall Tuesday morning, but the activity will start in the afternoon when the intensity will increase and snow will start

celsius during the day.

to open branch in Karak area already been announced. He KARAK (Petra) — The Agripointed out that the corporation cultural Credit Corporation is now working on training qual-(ACC) board of directors has ified staff to be employed at the decided to open a new branch for

the corporation in the Ghor Al The credit movement in Karak Safi area to provide services for Governorate, Mr. Ben Tarif said. farmers in the southern Jordan is very active. "It constitutes 20 per cent of the volume of credits Karak Governor Eid Qatarin Jordan, which is estimated at neh, who met with ACC Director General Mansour Ben Tarif

Agricultural Credit Corporation

about JD10 million," he said. He affirmed that the corporation's recent decision to pay for part of the interest rates on some oans was commended by farmers who expressed their willing to cooperate with it. He called on farmers to pay back their debts to enable the corporation to con-

in supporting farmers and commended its cooperation with the agricultural sector. agricultural sector in the Karak Mr. Ben Tarif said the corporation will commence, construction work in the building of the Ghor

In another development, Mr. Ben Tarif Monday visited the new building which now houses the ACC offices in the Karak Governorate and inspected the work process in its various sec-

According to Director of the ACC Karak' branch Hamed

Omeireen, the branch had extended loans worth JD2,243,915 to 773 farmers in the Karak Gov-

Mr. Ben Tarif Monday told the Jordan News Agency, Petra, that the corporation will continue extending investment loans to farmers in the various agricultural fields, including land reform, the planting of trees, exploiting water resources and developing animal wealth in the Kingdom. He said that JD11 million were allocated for the ACC's 1992 plans.

The plans of the corporation, tinue extending its services to the, he said, will concentrate on supporting agricultural processing and manufacturing projects, particularly cooperative ones, and marketing agricultural products in addition to providing loans to farmers to purchase agricultural machinery.

introduce

RJ to

baby

meal

day.

service

AMMAN (J.T.) - Royal

Jordanian (RJ), the national

airline, will introduce baby

meal service on its aircraft

along all routes starting

Wednesday, according to an

airline announcement Mon-

introduced in Irbid, Aqaba

duced to the cities of Irbid and Agaba for the first time by the beginning of January, Communications Minister Jamal Saraireh said Monday

He said that in view of the increasing demand of fast delivery mail in the two cities and as part of the ministry's plans to the Kingdom, the fast delivery. mail services will be introduced in Irbid and Aqaba with the same conditions and rates as in Am-

Any citizen, company or public or private establishment could cail at the central mail offices in Irbid and Aqaba to benefit from the fast delivery mail service, Mr. Saraireh said.

EXHIBITIONS

Royal Cultural Centre.

Art exhibition by Jumana Al Husseini at Abdul Hameed

The announcement said that the meals will be prepared by the RJ catering units in Amman and offered along with sweets for the benefit of the young passengers of different

WHAT'S GOING ON

Art and ornamentation exhibition by Sabah Hadidi at the

Shoman Foundation Gallery — 10 a.m.- 5 p.m.

The prime minister also promised administration and bring about re-On the political front, Sharif Zeid said the government was totally comtion of Jordan. He said the government would not

cierate personal calumny, especially against those who assume responsible Posts. Personal defamation is in violagon of all partiamentary and demobratic norms, he pointed out Mutual respect is the guiding force behind the relationship between the government and parliament, he said.

Sharif Zeid thanked the House Finance Committee for its report. which, he said, contained a high sense of responsibility aimed at safeguarding national interests. Finance Minister Basel Jardaneh,

deplying to deputies' comments, con-year economic revival and res-- inchiring plan he presented to the sionse alongwith the 1992 budget on Dec. 11.

There is nothing in economic history that proves that developing countries have been able to redress

Mr. Griadonov on Saturday

met His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and assured him of the commonwealth's policies regarding the Middle East issue. He said that his country was keen on ensuring a lasting peace in the Middle East region and was going ahead with plans to host the multilateral talks in Moscow as planned.

ly towards promoting the cause of

Mr. Lawzi told the ambassador that the Upper House of Parliament was looking forward for further scopes of cooperation between the Russian and Jordanian parliaments in a manner that would contribute most beneficial-

House endorses 1992 budget

interests of the Russian and

Joidanian people. The three-colour Russian flag was last Friday hoisted on the former Soviet embassy building in Amman and Mr. Griadonov said in a statement that Russia. which was taking over the former Soviet Union's seat at the United Nations, was also representing

By a Jordan Times Staff Re- Jordan's support and those of porter

AMMAN — Deputy Speaker of the Libyan National Assembly Ibrahim Al Ghuweil Tuesday ends a two-day visit to Jordan during which he sought the Kingdom's support for Tripoli's stand

Am crash.

Am jet over Lockerbie have not Mr. Ghuweil told the Jordan Times that Libva was counting on

Snow lieves that the Jordanian economy

snow to fall on hilly regions and the cold weather conditions will snow was expected to fall on all areas above 750 metres. This 800 metres above sea level, will

1991. The amount involved is JD6.2

falling. The officials said that temperatures are expected to drop to minus 1 celsius and could rise to 5

Fast mail service to be extend the service to all parts of AMMAN (Petra) - Fast delivery mail service will be intro-

Jordan Times

جوران تايمز يهمية عربية سيلسبة مستقلة تصدر بالاتعليرية عن المؤسسة المسعفية الأردنية

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Telex: 21497 ALRAI JO **Facsimile:** 661242

The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays. Subscription and advertising rates are available from the Jordan Times advertising department.

Secrecy is double-edged

EVERYONE IS still very secretive in this country. Yesterday evening, Dr. Abdul Salam Majali, Jordan's chief delegate to the Middle East peace talks, was lecturing at the World Affairs Council, presumably, on the development of the peace talks and the path they are expected to follow. The press was not invited and when we inquired if we could attend, we were told we were not allowed to be present at the lecture, which was open only to a selected few.

A reporter at this newspaper had been trying all week to get information on an alleged corruption case at a leading Jordanian institution, but to no avail. An Arabic daily last week published the text of what it said was a circular by one minister banning his staff from talking to the press except with prior permission from the minister himself.

These are only few examples of how our society still views the role of the press. Many of our esteemed politicians and officials seemingly have no respect for journalists' and newspapers' discretion and judgement much less their right to free access to newsworthy events or developments. Yet no chance is missed to criticise the press for not playing its intended role in democracy-building. The press cannot fulfill its function as a Fourth Estate unless all restrictions placed on it, except those deemed necessary by national security interests, are lifted. To be able to counter the Israeli media, for example, journalists need to know in-depth Jordan's position regarding the peace talks. Editors and chief-editors are responsible and wise people who are no less keen over the country's interest than their colleagues in the government or on peace missions. Keeping the press blind to important information such as the lecture delivered by Jordan's chief negotiator does not reciprocate the posture of responsibility that the press has tried to maintain. It is no longer viable or healthy to withhold information. People not only have the right to know, governments are obliged to make information available to anyone who seeks it. Secrecy encourages corruption because companies and individuals who keep their accounts secret can very easily evade tax. Likewise, officials who hide the information up their own sleeves could always be eyed with suspicion.

Despite all the restrictions, the press, in two years of the democratisation process, has so far shown a reasonable measure of restraint not less than that shown by government or Parliament.

Almost two hundred years ago, one great exponent of democracy and free speech said that if he would have been asked to choose between a government without a free press or a free press without government, he would have chosen the latter. It ought at last be realised that free press is a guarantee for a progressive government and a free society. For unless everyone knew his or her actions are public, one would very easily be tempted to use whatever power he or she possesses to his or her own self interest. The press is not a legislator, neither is it governor or judge. It merely is the means by which society exchanges information and conducts its debates. Unless the press is allowed to do just that, ours will be a deaf and mute society. Is this bow our peers want us to be?

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL RA'I daily Monday praised the Financial Committee of the Lower House of Parliament for what it called an objective and in-depth evaluation of the 1992 draft budget and the economic reform plan attached to it as presented by the finance minister to the House. Perhaps it is one of very rare times that such positive and constructive response has been drawn from the Lower House which seems now to fully realise the crucial moments the country is facing and the government's sincere efforts to reform the national economy through the implementation of an economic restructuring programme, said the paper. The Finance Committee's report was comprehensive and reflected a high degree of awareness of the nation's problems and presented a clear insight into the serious challenges and difficult circumstances facing Jordan at the moment, commented the daily. It said that both the committee's report and the speeches of the various deputies demonstrated a high sense of responsibility and true commitment to share in the process of reforming the national economy. The speeches dwelt mainly on the questions of poverty, unemployment and the reform of the national economy, shedding more light on methods that could be followed to carry out the restructuring programme, the paper noted. It said that the Parliament session was more like a politico-economic symposium, focusing attention on the difficult economic and social questions now facing our nation.

A columnist in Al Ra'i daily said that Iran was not only Iraq's enemy, but that of the whole Arab Nation, Abdul Rahim Omar reviewed Tehran's position before, during and after the Gulf crisis, accusing the Iranian regime of stabbing the Arab Nation in the back. Statements given by the heads of the Tehran regime had given false hopes to the Arab countries which soon discovered the real role and intentions of their eastern neighbour, said the writer. In the Gulf war, Iran stood by the U.S.-led alliance, after the war ended, Tehran has been instrumental in creating disturbances inside Iraq, causing further sufferings to its people and later tightening the blockade imposed on Baghdad, the writer pointed out. He said that the Iranians still detain thousands of Iraqi prisoners of war, hold fraqi civilian and military aircraft and continue to foment trouble among the Shiites in southern Iraq. The Iranians, who never fired a single shot against the Israeli occupiers of Palestine, staged an anti-American conference to abort the peace process, but at the same time were in secret negotiations with Washington over the fate of the hostages in Lebanon, the writer continued. The long-established Iranian alliance with Libya came to nought when the Western countries started issuing threats against Tripoli, said the columnist. Noting that Tehran is now turning its attention to Sudan, the writer said this move is clearly intended to stir trouble in neighbouring Egypt through the Islamic fundamentalist groups, with the hope of destabilising the Arab country.

The View from Fourth Circle

God, Algeria, Arab rebirth and potato chips

THE stunning victory of the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS, its French acronym) in the first round of the Algerian parliamentary elections is a very important milestone for the region, perhaps the most important political development since the overthrow of the Shah of Iran in 1989. Like the demise of the Shah, the FIS victory sends three powerful messages:

1. It is a sign of massive grassroots disenchantment with the existing political, social, and economic order.

- 2. It serves notice to the incumbent Arab power structure that grassroots political organisation and human will can change or even remove long established systems, regardless of those systems' control of the means of violence, patronage, or the national budget.
- 3. The powerful appeal of Islam can and will be used to rally political sentiment across Arab frontiers artificially established by the British and French in the 1930s. It provides Arabs with an effective short term hope that the sense of identity and security that has not been satisfied to date either by Arab nationalism or secular statism may be achieved through other indigenous vehicles.

What happens next is anybody's guess. Mine is that FIS rule in Algeria cannot be stopped without tremendous bloodshed, and the government and army would be foolish to try to stop it. The FIS will take power, and its rule will result in two developments: a) It will gradually transform Algeria into a mildly "Islamic" state, with comforting emotional changes and superficial but highly symbolic acts that formally commit the state to Islamic dictates, but little substantive changes in the affairs of the state or the individual and b) In the end, it will simply confirm what has been clear for about the last, oh, three thousand years that states based on religion do not work, for religion is a spiritual compact with God and a moral code for man's daily life, not a manifesto for the political configuration of temporal and independent states.

The several contemporary models of states with strong or even formal religious foundations (Iran, Saudi Arabia, Pakistan, Sudan, Israel, Lebanon) are lands of deep human sentiment and dignity, but hardly models of paradise on earth. While they all have their good points, and the three religions represented in their frenzied political arrangements (Islam, Judaism, and Christianity) share a parallel wellspring of moral rectitude, they are emphatic confirmation that religion as a basis for statehood is a failed experiment. Religion in the service of politics, however, is a powerful yet transitional occurrence. It is a means of change more than a means of policy-formulation, as valid for Middle Easterners today as it was for black South Africans in the 1980s and black Americans in the 1960s.

God is highly effective partner in protesting and challenging unjust political orders, as Iran, Algeria, and others have shown us. But He has yet to prove his competence in export promotion, job creation, budget balancing, water conservation, and the many other practical problems that have to be resolved by ruling governments.

Algeria will once again test these truisms, and it can use all the help it can get. For the Algerians are a good microcosm of everything wrong with the Arab World in recent decades —

centralised and autocratic government, intolerance for opposing political opinions, corruption and mismanagement, social confusion due to rapid consumerism, urbanism, and industrialisation, a distorted reliance on foreign imports of food and capital and consumer goods, massive foreign debt, rising unemployment, and a general deterioration in individual quality of life, sense of confidence, and future hope.

When we see all of these things happening in our part of the Arab World, in the Levantine states bordering Israel and Palestine, we tend to attribute much of the blame to the consequences of the militarism. waste, and distortions of the Arab-İsraeli conflict. Algeria, however, is far away from Palestine and the bitter anger of the Levant; yet it still suffers problems so massive and pervasive that its people have sought last resort refuge in the arms of God, and in the slogans and promises of those would claim in represent God in earthly political circles.

Clearly, Algeria is a confused and directionless land, an Arab/Islamic orphan suffering the consequences of inappropriate parentage at the handsi of its French foster parents. Algeria is perhaps the most sad and glaring example of post-colonial Arab stupor. A land rich in resources, history, culture, and people. Algeria stumbles into the 1990s dazed and deeply in debt. Its people are angry and frightened. Their past and their language were taken from them by the French. Their present is an embarrassing mess resulting from over a quarter century of one-party rule. Their future is all they have left, and they do not want to lose that as well.

Desperate to salvage whatever they can of their national identity, the Algerian people turned to Islam the only force that could unite them, spur them on to great deeds of national self-assertion, and challenge the excesses and failures of the public political order. All of this started in the mid 1980s, peaking first in the 1988 street riots that forced the National Liberation Front to relinquish its monopoly on power and adopt a pluralistic political system. This electoral victory is the second peak for the Islamic opposition, and it is doubly significant because it happened despite fervent attempts by the government and the ruling power elite to discredit the Islamic movement, lock up its leaders, and influence the election results through blatant electoral redistricting that gave the government a better chance of

Nevertheless, the government lost badly, because it had failed the crucial test of responding to the rights, needs and, aspirations of the Algerian people. The victory of the Islamic Salvation Front confirms that Islam remains the primary vehicle for political expression of massive grassroots discontent. It also indicates that the pause in Arab political transformation that accompanied the Gulf war is now over. The momentum for widespread political change in the region now resumes from the point it reached in mid

The West and much of the power elite in the Arab World are worried and frightened by the Islamic victory, and understandably so, for the FIS victory is indeed a major threat to the made-in-Europe and protected by America order that has ruled the Arab World for the last half a century. That order has seen something like two thousand billion dollars transferred from the Arab World to the West in the last 30 years, in the form of imports, investments, bank deposits, payment for goods and services, and, most recently, protection money and payments to rent Western armies. But this order has not worked we from the viewpoint of the average Arab man or woman, it is no surprise that the Arab people today should be dead something different, and something better.

The Shah's overthrow in 1979 was an early sign that the Middle Eastern order had largely failed its people. The challenge to the Syrian government and Anwar Sadat's asse tion two years later were other signs of something very wa the soul of our Arab/Islamic lands. Many other signs follow the next decade, including the overthrow of Jaafar Neme Sudan, Habib Bourguiba in Tunisia, and Mohammad Siad in Somalia, the ethnic and religious fragmentation of Leb the continued Islamic challenge to the Egyptian regime, the demonstrations in Jordan in April 1989 that led to democratisation, the growing and increasingly successful sroots pressures for political pluralism in Mauritania (Ma mia!), the recent ethnic/political violence in Djibouti, the of autocratic systems in Yemen, the collapse and bloody on of the Somali state, and, finally, when Kuwait was literally in 1991, the deafening silence throughout the Arab Wo

Only two major political forces have not been tried in a s manner in the Arab World in recent decades - democrat Islam. The third important force of Arab nationalism can o manifested as a result of Islam or democracy's succ propelling the Arab people forward, far from their past f and subjugation, beyond their recent torpor, and well awar their current stupor. The race is now on to see whether dem or Islam captures the heart and imagination of the Arabs. are not necessarily mutually exclusive.

In fact, they are probably symbiotic in character, each of the other support and strength. the Islamic groups are ex influence and wielding power in several Arab countries (Y Jordan, Algeria) thanks to their participation in demo processes. Those who fear the Islamic wave should re-ex their fears, and accept it as an inevitable and ultir constructive phase in the national transformation and re-bi an Arab Nation that has been ailing, wandering, and flound for many decades dazzled by the money of oil, the glit Western video games, and the satisfying crunch of potato

The premier task now facing the Arabs and Muslims of region is to work out a new political model that is appropri our region, social legacy, and people. Such a model accommodate Islam as our primary moral heritage and for tion, democracy as the key operative principle of our public and pluralism as the immutable foundation of our multi-el multi-religious Arab societies that include many non-Arab non-Muslims. To fight the power of Islam and grassroots M Eastern political sentiment is to fight a losing and unneces battle, and also to engage in hypocritical fears - if we are so about respecting the will of the majority through plur democracy. After being told for many decades to shut up enjoy their imported potato chips and videos, the Arab/M people of our region are speaking out with force, and they the language of change and renewal. Honest and intelligen and women throughout the Arab World must now assure the continuing triumph of politicised Islam leads to fresh, vigo and relevant Arab rebirth grounded in human dignity, free and identity. That, one suspects, is what God and all his pro had in mind for us all along.

By Maria Holt

ALL, on the surface, appears peaceful here. It is late autumn but still warm. The Sea of Galilee laps gently, blue and screne, yet humming with activity. On the other side of the lake the Golan rises, seemingly impervious to. human machinations. Tiberias is not an unpleasant town to visit, well endowed with discos. beaches and waterfront restaurants. Nonetheless, intima- ing. But the town seemed to hint

I left Jerusalem on Friday morning on a bus going north. Belching forth air conditioning and incongruous muzak, the bus descended quickly into the stark austerity of the West Bank. The passengers were on assortment of Israelis going home for the weekend, a few settlers, the odd tourist and a great many soldiers. This military presence, both on and off duty, is something most visitors stop noticing after a day or two. But at first it is quite disquieting. The soldiers, uniformly young and ordinary, their machine guns propped carelessly a systematic destruction of the against adjacent seats, are ready, one supposes, to spring into ac-

Where life seems happy

tion. For we are venturing, although it is easy to forget, into - at all, are disturbing, lurking unenemy territory.

By the time we reached Tiberias after an uneventful journey, the Sabbath was about to start and banks and shops were clostions of precariousness persist. at uncomplicated pleasures, a break from the nagging reminders of occupation. Striving to approximate Limassol or the Costa del Sol, Tiberias cannot altogether lose its air of frantic escapism. Like them, it has perfected the art of tourism. Overpriced concrete monstrosities line the water front to cater for the anticipated throngs of visitors, most of whom seem to hail from

Tel Aviv, or the United States. While Arab Nazareth, just down the road, suffers from a shocking degree of official neglect. Tiberias entices affluence by past, a headlong rush away from authenticity. The contrasts, if

one bothers to think about them comfortably on the fringes of Israel's consciousness; the occupied territories for example. Not very far away squats the Palestinian refugee camp of Balata, a squalid hellhole. But do these sad places, or indeed the many other unsavoury aspects of the occupier's lot, impinge on the hedonistic sun-seekers of Tiberias? Probably not.

At the beginning of 1948, Tiberias was home to around 5,000 Palestinians. Not one remained by the time Israel was established a few months later. In the centre of the town the old mosque still stands, solid and imposing, but abandoned now and sinking, with the blessing of the municipality, into decay. This, clearly, is a side of Tiberias best ignored, an uncomfortable memory of those who used to dwell here. These days, if seen at all,

"the Arabs" are glimpsed at me-

nial tasks in restaurants and beach resorts. Such forced forgetfulness cannot help but breed On the public beach, a heap of

rocks and rubble for which one anguish? need not pay the hefty entrance fee of more exclusive stretches of the lake shore, a group of young Ethiopian boys frolic in the water, using empty plastic bottles strapped to their bodies as swimming aids. There are many Ethiopians in Tiberias, people who "know nothing" neither the language nor the customs of Israel. Yet they are welcome, they are the future.

A country made up of newcomers, and still they pour in, like a plaster vainly struggling to stop a gushing wound. The wound is Palestine, penned in at Balata, at Shu'fat and Dahaysha, in the teeming alleys of Jerusalem's Old City. Meanwhile contented Israeli families enjoy a large and leisurely Sabbath brunch in the

luxury hotels of Tiberias. More contrasts, yet they seem able to coexist in a neat enough fashion, too neat maybe. Is this what it was all for, the bloodshed and the

Watching the tourist boats striking out across the Sea of Galilee, one could almost be by off in the distance, the b Lake Como, without a care in the world. But the Israelis, we know, have many cares, however determinedly they shrug them off and behave as if morality were on their side. Raucous music booms out everywhere, even from the boats chugging round the lake, to the Golan and back, lit up by fairy lights at night, as if to drown the threatening silence.

There exists in Tiberias a deliberate, carefully cultivated theatricality that is almost convincing. The town occupies, after all, a spectacular natural setting. If one pretends hard enough it is very nearly possible to be beguiled. This scene of simple plea-

whole country celebrates ness as a national cha tic. Violence hovers at t gins of society, ready to at any moment. And does, in loud and aggres bal exchanges which pass viviality, in fist fights and road accidents and, son tion of an entire people. the not surprising effect

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also creates a sort of rest

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told. But not just Tiber

Tiberias is a rough to

but not quite able to ac It is an incompletener suggests that, far from di the occupied territories will be capable of fulfilli only by relinquishing Then, one day, its dr normality will come to many have said, Israel a ceivably be successful in ing all the land it wants, in very great danger, of soul. - Middle East Inte

al, London.

Trees as protectors of theenvironment

The following article is reprinted Agricultural Organisation pub-

IT TAKES NATURE between 3,000 and 12,000 years to build up land. Erosion can destroy that work in a matter of hours. Worldwide, 3,200 million hectares are under threat from descrification and the livelihood of 700 million people is at risk.

cipal agents of this destruction. In extreme conditions, 150 tonnes of topsoil can be blown off one hectare of land in an hour. The lighter, finer particles of soil which are also the most fertile are carried away first. It was wind erosion that created the dust bowls in the Great Plains of the United States in the 1930s - one four-day storm carried away 300 million tonnes of soil.

Water erosion is the most common form of erosion; some studies suggest that as much as 25,000 million tonnes of soil are washed away each year. In India, for example, water erosion affects 90 million hectares more than 30 per cent of the grow.

country.

increases flooding and degrades natural rate of erosion and desfrom a United Nations Food and drinking water. Deforestation in the Himalayas contributes to the annual flooding of 4.9 million . hectares in India and the washing of 2.400 million tonnes of silt into the rivers of Bangladesh each enough soil to form productive year. Riverbeds in the Terai region of Nepal are rising by between 1.5 to 3 metres a decade.

Siltation reduces the effectiveness of dams and hydro-electric systems. It has reduced the life expectancy of the Nizam Sagar Wind and water are the prin- reservoir in India to 6 per cent of its design capacity.

Productive land is also lost when its nutrient contents is depleted, or when it becomes too saline. If groundwater rises to within I metre of the surface, it can be drawn to the top and evaporate, leaving concentrations of salts which build up over time and pollute the soil. Waterlogging and salinisation have reduced yields from 11 million hec-

tares of cropland in Pakistan. The compacting of soil through the use of heavy machinery, or even the continued pounding by cattle, renders it too hard for water to penetrate or for plants to

While all these chains of events Water erosion causes land- occur naturally, human intervenslides and, by silting up rivers, tion has more than doubled the

troyed an estimated 2,000 million hectares of land.

Wind and water have a major impact when the soil is left exposed: when the protective cover of vegetation is lost. Human beings, through the misuse or overuse of the land, initiate this chain of destruction. Sustainable management, however, can reverse the cycle.

Trees can protect the soil and improve the quality of water supplies. They can be used as windbreaks to protect the land from wind erosion up to a distance of at least 20 times their height. Planting shelterbelts has led to increases in grain yields of up to 200 per cent.

In China, a new Great Wall is being built; a shelterbelt nearly 6,000 km long, covering 1.6 million hectares. It will form a protective barrier around the Gobi desert, designed to reduce erosion and reclaim lost land. In Morocco, windbreaks are helping to stabilise moving sand dunes, stopping them from encroaching on cultivated land.

Trees and vegetation reduce the effect of water erosion by softening the impact of rainfall, by stopping floodwater from sweeping over the land and by holding the soil together. This

binding effect is particularly important on sloping, slip-prone land. Landslides are seven times more frequent in such areas, following the removal of trees.

Forests bordering rivers and streams act as a buffer, catching sediment and filtering out chemicals and pesticides that pollute the water supply. They also lessen the damage from floods.

Because trees absorb more water than other plants, they often compete with crops, but their removal can cause rises in the water table that are equally detrimental.

Many trees restore nutrients to the soil that were removed by crops; by protecting humus they safeguard natural fertilizer sup-

Trees protect the environment in other ways. Coastal wetlands and shallows, particularly estuaries and mangrove swamps, provide food and shelter for waterfowl, fish, crustaceans and molluses. They are breeding grounds for shrimps. Mangrove forests protect the coastline from wave damage and tidal surges. The cost to U.S. marine fisheries of degradation in coastal wetlands is estimated at \$86 million a year. Using trees to protect the environment can reap real econo-

mic benefits.

LETTERS

Help Iraqi childre

To the Editor:

ON Christmas Eve, while watching TV, I watched the Am children getting presents in a very happy and warm atmos Immediately I thought of my cousins Halo and Bana liv Iraq. They are Iraqi Kurds living in Baghdad. They a allowed to play. Do you know why? Because if they fail dow

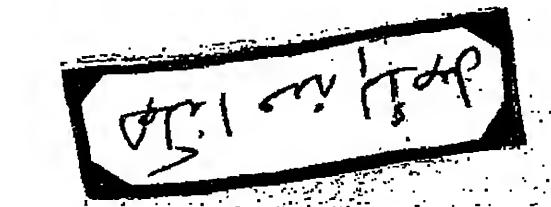
burt themselves, there is no medicine for them in Iraq-Everytime my father travels to Baghdad, he takes copybooks, pencils and some food for them. Halo and Bank relatives like my father who always remember them with basic needs but what about other children who have no reoutside Iraq? On my birthday, I refused to accept presents and I ask

friends to bring milk for Iraqi children instead. Your grandchildren and all children of the United States got everything, and I am sure you spent quite some time try settle on a splendid present to your grandchildren. Iraqi chi

are satisfied with a drop of milk. I asked my parents if it is possible for my letter to be reco the president of the United States. The answer was: "Wo know." But in the name of children and innocent people every person in the United States in whose hands this. happens to fall to try and send it to Mr. President George and I'm waiting for an answer.

> Lara Ras Sisters of Nazareth St Sixth G Jabal He Amman - Jo

The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions fil readers on any subject they wish to tackle. Letters intend publication, however, should contain the writer's full name preferably address as well. Names can be withheld only request and under special circumstances. Letters are subj editing. The newspaper is not responsible for the return of the manuscripts.



By Hugh O'Shaughnessy

THE future for them is sinister. "Sitting in her headmistress's office in a primary school in Perpignan watching her white, black and Arab pupils playing in the courtyard. Olga is frankly downhearted.

A vigorous woman of liberal views who, in cramped classtooms and on a small salary, has done her best for race relations in her city, she is certainly no defeatist. But she has no illusions about the future course of politics and community life in this depressed corner of France in the shadow of the Pyrenees.

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The tide immigrants across the Mediterranean from Muslim North Africa is inexorable; the local French reaction is getting tougher month by month; the National Front of Jean-Marie Le Pen, which wants immigrants out, already commands the loyalty of a third of the voters of Perpignan and is bound to get stronger.

Politics in Perpignan, as in other European cities great and small from Bremen to Brindisi. are swinging to the right because of immigration.

Overtly racist parties such as the National Front and the Republikaner in Germany are having a field day. Moderate conservatives are scrabbling after their voters, terrified lest the extremists woo away any more of that middle class on whom the moderate right has always depended.

The left, supposedly committed to greater internationalism than the right, has the hard job of seeking policies which are at the same time saleable and humane. Fearful lest turmoil in the East push millions of Slavs and eastern Europeans to seek peace and prosperity in the West and alarmed at the prospect of new waves of immigration from the Maghreb and the whole southern shore of the Mediterranean and from Africa beyond — politicians are being forced to get to grips with a set of problems which, all are agreed, can only

As an increasingly depressed Third World stirs and begins to move, immigration will throw its shadow over public life in Europe. The drive of migrants towards the rich countries of Western Europe, strongly influenced as it is by the global contrast in standards of living between the poor South and the rich North, could produce as many problems for Europe in the years to come as the cold war ever did. Perhaps more.

in Rome sometime ago the Vatican talked of "hundreds of millions of people on the move. In the frightened, violent port of Marseilles, where North Africans are in the vast majority in many districts, Le Méridional, the local has recalled words of Houari Boumedienne, the Algerian nationalist leader; "No atomic bomb will stop our peoples one day invading the rich spaces of the northern hemis-

At an international conference

The impact of the migration issue goes through infinite gradations in Europe from city to city and village to village depending on whether immigrants are black or white, Christian or Muslim; on whether the local economy is booming or struggling; on whether local politicians are skilful or clever; or on whether, as in Germany, the roots of a racist ideology are still alive. With up to 10 million non-EC immigrants settled among the 320 million inhabitants of the Community and tens of millions more trying to crowd in, it is rare for any part of Europe to be completely unaffected. Europe, after all, needs workers as birth rates slump: only in Ireland is the birth rate in-

In Germany, in recent weeks, hatred of immigrants has boiled up in public and demonstrated that democratic and united Germany can still produce ugliness. that smells of the Nazi era. The extreme right commands enormous electoral funds. Police reaction against racial extremists in Germany has often been halting - perhaps because, as opinion polls show, the police sympathise

creasing.

with them. Günther Schultze, a sociologist of the Friedrich Ebert Foundation, says: "Discrimination against foreigners is now routine, blood is again flowing from German nationalism." In Belgium, the Vlaams Blok in Flanders and the National Front in Wallonia -which advocate compulsory repatriation of immigrants — are expected to make big gains in the

general elections.

Nor is progressive Scandinavia an exception. The Progress Party of Denmark, whose leader Mogens Glistrup won a fifth of the electorate by campaigning against taxation, owed part of his success to an appeal to xenophobia. And this summer there have been demonstrations outside Copenhagen against immigra-

Perpignan, a stronghold of French nationalism, is a place of narrow streets, ancient buildings and pleasant squares which dozes in the sun, half remembering the times long past when it belonged to Spain. It is a city of some cultural pretensions: it has a university and it wants to become known for its annual festival for news photographers. But below the quiet surface, Perpignan is a political snakepit. "Perpignan is hardly any better than Marseilles, just more hypocritical," says Marguerite, a teacher.

Votes have traditionally been bought and sold in Perpignan, with the thriving gypsy community among the most active traders. The city boss, Jacques Farran, is under investigation for corrupt practices. "Under all the different political labels we've had the same gang in power here in Perpignan for 50 years. It's disgusting," says Marguerite. After France was forced out of its Algerian colony three decades ago, the city welcomed a large number of "pieds noirs," white colonists who were forced off the land they cultivated and out of their country of adoption by the victorious Algerian nationalists.

"The pieds noirs are a big political force here," says Claude Bébon, an independent-minded member of the regional assembly and a rather insubordinate member of the Socialist Party. He talks wistfully. "When those men worked the land in Algeria they were often communists or good socialists," he says. "Now they're far to the right."

The Maghrebins — the Algerians and their Moroccan and Tunisian cousins — who got rid of French colonialism in the 1950s. are meanwhile following the French into their own country, as Boumedienne forecast. The political temperature is rising in the

At 7 a.m., in the scruffy Place Casanyes, not far from the old palace of the Kings of Majorca, the scene is reminiscent of the New Testament. The Maghrebins stand, each with his lunch in a plastic carrier bag, waiting to be hired for a day's work in the fields, in the vineyards or on the building sites. In this depressed city they often wait in vain. By eight o'clock the Place is filled with rickety tables and wobbly camp beds where stallholders heap the cheap shirts and secondhand skirts that the North African men and women buy. No one can guarantee that drugs are not traded among all the tatty clo-

The increasing number of Muslims and the competition for work is day by day pushing the whites into the arms of Le Pen — and not just in Perpignan, says Bébon. Pointing to the recent remarks by former President Val-.éry Giscard d'Estaing about a migrant "invasion," Mr. Bébon emphasises how the respectable right throughout France is being drawn into deep controversy on the issue. "By choosing the word "invasion," a very painful word for the French, Mr. Giscard who is no fool — was consciously equating immigrants with barbarians," he says. Mr. Giscard's words brought him an immediate dividend; a poll last week showed him to be the politician with whom the French identity.

Meanwhile, the increasingly fearful Muslims of Perpignan are doing their own mobilising and Islamic fundamentalism is gaining a toehold. In the immigrant quarter of St. Jacques, fundamentalists have threatened to punish Algerian grocers if they contradict the Koran and sell alcohol. At the town hall, Philippe Laborie, spokesman for a council which survives in office with the support of the National Front, admits race relations are "a thorny subject." Here in Perpignan we are much nearer to Africa than you English, but," he smirks, "you English are much nearer Asia. All those Pakistanis

you've got..." As photographer Roger Hutchings and I leave, we are shown how thorny immigration is. Nervous CRS riot police, heedless of the city's drive to attract news photographers, force Hutchings to expose and destroy film he had

taken of checks on immigrants at the railway station.

Italy, which despite its Fascist past has never rivalled Germany in xenophobia, is now waking up to the reality of racism. Accustomed - like Spain, Portugal and Greece — to sending surplus population abroad rather than welcoming incomers, Italians are struggling with a new political phenomenon. Racism has found some strange bedfellows. In an outburst last year, Mgr. Ersilio Tonnini, the Archbishop of Ravenna, complained that Europe was being Islamicised and that peoples of different cultures, religions and races could not live

Milan the glittering capital of Lombardy, has been the focus of an increasingly bitter debate. It has seen the rise of the Lega Nord, a movement that embodies the Lombards' ancient distrust of Italians from less productive parts of the country. Playing to the Lombards' convictions that the hopelessly corrupt government in Rome does nothing but squander the hard-earned money seized in taxes from the industrious northerners and that all Italians living south of Rome are congenitally sick, lame and lazy, the Lega Nord wants an independent Lombardy with its capital in Mantua.

But the Lega, which is less of a traditional party than a mass movement without a set of carefully worked out policies, is also tapping Lombards' fears of the foreign immigrant. A poll last month in the newspaper, "Il Giornale," showed that half the voters considered the Lega racist and two-thirds believed that in the spring elections it would win more than a quarter of the votes cast. One Lombard in two finds the Lega leader Umberto Bossi "well-informed, honest, cultured and friendly." "The Lega will certainly be gaining ground,"

says a senior diplomat in Milan. Italy is the European country that is most directly accessible to migrants from the Slavic East and the African South. With a land frontier with Yugoslavia and with tens of thousands of ethnic Italians living along the Dalmatian coast, the Italian government is this weekend bracing itself for a new influx of refugees from the Yugoslav civil war. And with the longest coastline in the Mediterranean it has no chance of keeping out migrants from the

"We can never really seal our Observer.

frontiers," says Enzo, a social worker in Florence. Under its energetic socialist mayor, Giorgio Morales, that city is doing what it can for racial harmony. The Florentines, who pride themselves on their culture and humanity — and who don't want to lose their fabulously valuable tourist business — got a terrible fright last year.

Shopkeepers had long complained about street traders from overseas — extracommunictari from outside the EC — and Florentines in general had been worried about immigrants trading in drugs. During carnival masked revellers beat three migrants nearly to death. Then black Africans went on hunger strike outside the cathedral. The headlines went round the world and something urgent had to be done.

Sitting in his magnificent office in the Palazzo Vecchio last week Mr. Morales explained his policy. "It's one of solidarity with the immigrant — combined with enforcement of the law." The extracommunitari traders have been cleared from outside the elegant shop windows and given pitches in other spots where they can catch the tourist's eye. The city has meanwhile laid on Italian classes for immigrants and set up centres where new arrivals can stay for up to 60 days.

Mr Morales is paying voluntary aid agencies to set up creches and nurseries so that disadvantaged Italian and immigrant children can be cared for together. "But," says Mr. Morales, "there's a limit on what one city can do. Migration is a national question. Perhaps even a supranational

Among all the fears about the future, there is still a feeling that violent racism is not inevitable in Europe. There is still hope that with good will and realism, extremists of all persuasions can be held in check Rino Perbellini, the archbishop of Florence's expert on migrant affairs, is clear... "There is no way immigrants can be totally excluded. There's no substitute for treating them like

the human beings they are." In the heart of the continent, the country with the highest immigration rate of all in Europe sets an intriguing example. In the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg. three out of 10 of the tiny population are migrants, but racism is scarcely a problem. Tolerance has prevailed somewhere. —

U.S.-Japan trade frictions rise ahead of Bush Tokyo visit

By Robert Trautman · Reuter

WASHINGTON — Alreadysour U.S.-Japan trade relations have been hit by new setbacks just before President George Bush's visit to Tokyo in the new

When Mr. Bush's Dec. 30-Jan. 10 visit to Japan, Singapore, Australia and South Korea was first mentioned, he suggested it would be used for renewing geo-political ties in a post-cold war climate.

BUT NOW U.S. officials say it could instead trigger trade clashes as Mr. Bush shifts the talks onto ways to create more job opportunities for Americans. Referring to the countries on

his trip he told a Thursday press conference: "I think they'll understand when this trip is over to the degree there are barriers than make this trade less than fair, that they better to something about it."

With election-year politics prominent, three merging themes of the last few months triggered the switch in tactics.

The first was an intensifying spotlight on the rising U.S. trade deficit in cars and car parts when General Motors announced last week it would close 21 North American plants, shedding 74,000 workers.

The second was soaring current account surplus in Tokyo's favour and the third Japan's refusal to open its rice market to foreign

Already Mr. Bush has warned Japan about rising protectionism in America, saying in a pre-visit letter to Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa he opposes restrictions on Japanese imports but adding: "I need your help."

In his news conference, Mr. Bush made plain his view: "I'm not going to turn protectionist. I just believe that we need to expand markets, not contract them," he said. "This country went through a

disastrous experience with protectionism years ago and we're not going to do it again. We must not go back to this isolationistic sphere that inevitably will shrink markets and throw more people out of work." But Mr. Bush's opposition has

not stopped House Democratic leader Richard Gephardt of Missouri and four Michigan congressmen — from states which are home to major car plants unveiling plans to submit legislation to force Japan into balancing trade with the United States within five yers or face sanctions on its car and car-parts shipments.

With U.S. trade deficit with Japan at about \$40 billion, 75 per cent of it cars and car-parts, the

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reform the global trading system, anti-Japan trade legislation is certain to become a major issue Democrats will use to batter Republicans in the 1992 congressional and presidential elections. On Thursday, Japan's Finance

Ministry announced a more than three-fold increase in its current account balance of payments surplus, the broadest measure of trade in good and services, which widened to a \$7.26 billion surplus in November from a 1.69 billion surplus in November last year. Alongside general complaints about numbers, Mr. Bush is

bound to raise in Tokyo Japan's specific decision to maintain its ban on imports of foreign rice in the face of demands for change from United States and other industrial countries.

Trading partners want Japan to drop the ban as part of efforts to

the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT). Its refusal could contribute to a breakdown of work on reforms to the world trading rules after five

Diplomatic sources say Mr. Bush is likely to be met in Tokyo with assurances that its latest efforts to balance bilateral trade will work in time for example, decisions by the Japanese automakers Toyota, Nissan and Honda to increase the value of car parts they buy from U.S. sup-

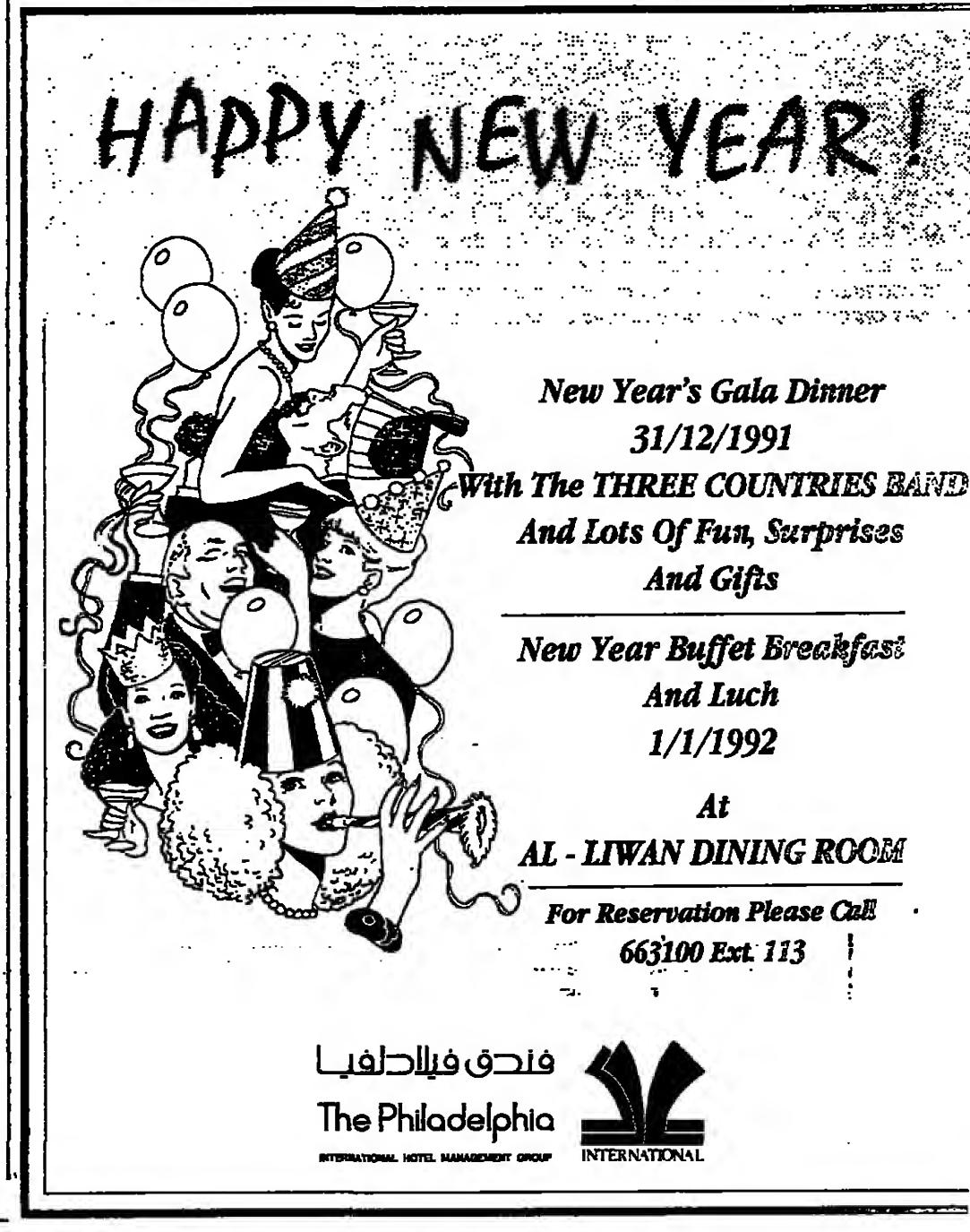
But Japan made similar assurances in the past, and many U.S. businessmen and politicians see only minimal results, some suggesting informal barriers operated by private businesses in Japan are now the main obstacle.

Perceived problems with Japanese business practices have being discussed over the last two years by a Japan-U.S. group known as the Structural Impediments Initiative (SII).

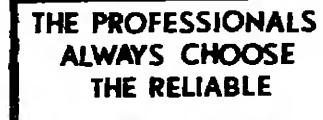
"But the business community is left with the impression that a lot of the momentum is gone from the SII talks," said one trada

Mr. Bush's visit is likely to give them new impetus.

"I think the major problem is to have the people that run the business enterprises in the various countries we're going to understand how difficult things are for the American worker... and how important it is to gain access — further access — tc. these foreign markets," Mr. Bush told reporters.



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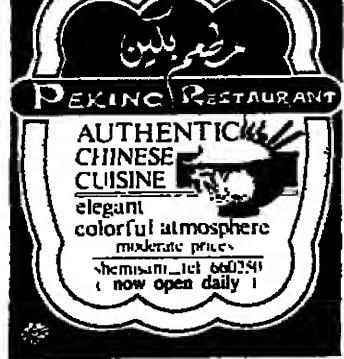
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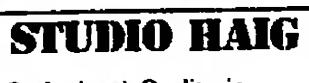
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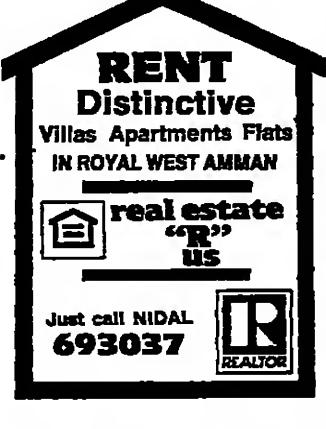


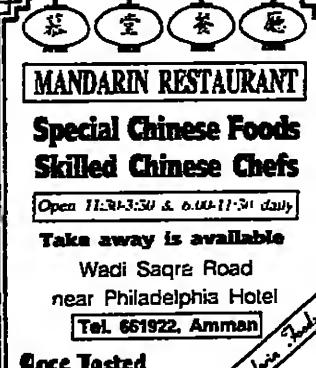


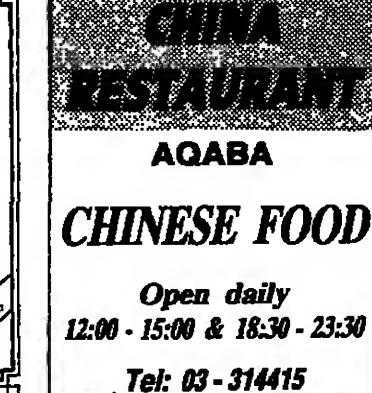
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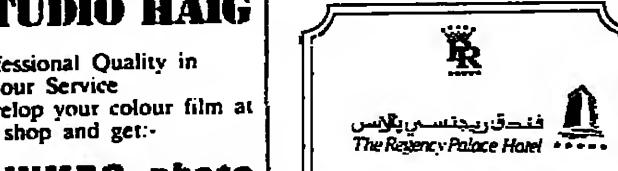
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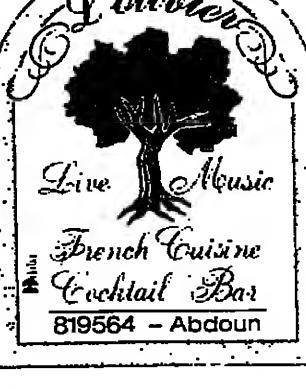


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Germans advance in Hopman Cup

PERTH, Australia (AP) — German tennis giants Boris Becker and Steffi Graf swept aside the French duo of Henri Leconte and Julie Halard Monday night, advancing to the semifinals of the Hopman Cup exhibition tennis tournament.

Becker, who twice stood at the summit in 1991 but is now ranked No. 3 in the world, played blazing tennis to overpower Davis Cup hero Leconte 6-2, 6-4.

The victory gave the German team an unbeatable 2-0 lead after Graf, the world's No. 2-ranked woman player behind Monica Seles, defeated Halard 6-0, 7-5. Graf was feeling ill and with-

drew from the scheduled mixed doubles match alongside Becker. Hopman Cup organiser Paul McNamee said Graf had a bad cold and a high temperature, but would have played if the match was needed to decide the contest

against the French team. Halard won just seven points in the first set against the German's serve in the second, breaking in the seventh and ninth games.

LONDON (R) — Manchester

United kept their two-point lead

in the English Soccer League

Sunday after a controversial 1-1

the league before the clash, the

first of three league and cup

matches at Elland Road in two

weeks, but it was a game Leeds

against Neil Webb's well-taken

46th-minute volley which put Un-

ited ahead, Leeds were furious to

have what looked like a clear

REGGIO EMILIA, Italy (R) —

There are no national flags on

view at the highest-ranked

tournament in chess history

which features nine grandmasters

Organisers of the International

from the former Soviet Union.

Category 18 Tournament decided

that placing flags on the table

would create too many headaches

in view of the disintegration of

to play without flags," said grand-

it I would play under the flag of

Russia because I lived in Lening-

rad," added Khalifman, now resi-

would play under the Russian flag

despite living in Paris, while Vasi-

ly Ivanchuk and Alexander Be-

lyavsky would opt to represent

for Byelorussia while exiles

Mikhail Gurevich and Valery

Salov wanted to display the col-

ours of their adopted countries,

Belgium and Spain respectively.

played under the flag of Belgium.

I live in Brussels and have no

wish to return to Russia," said

citizenship of Spain and to play

under the flag of Spain," Salov

World champion Garry Kas-

Kasparov played under the

Russian flag in his World Cham-

parov and former world cham-

pion Anatoly Karpov did not

disclose their preferences.

"I would like to get the

"In the last tournaments I have

Boris Gelfand would compete

Lev Polugayevsky also said he

master Alexander Khalifman.

"Maybe the best solution was

"If the organisers had allowed

the Soviet Union.

dent in Germany.

Ukraine.

Gurevich.

said.

Lee Chapman, clearly onside

and beautifully positioned, slot- are now on 46.

Soviet chess grandmasters

pose nationality problem

While there was no arguing

could have won.

equaliser disallowed.

Both sides had lost only once in

draw at second-placed Leeds.

Man. United stays 2 points

clear after draw at Leeds

Breaks by Graf in the sixth. eighth and 12th games gave her the victory.

Becker, who missed the Grand Slam Cup three weeks ago because of a virus, looked in supreme touch with his power game. sending down six aces to Leconte's one.

His only lapse was losing his serve in the eighth game of the second set.

The Germans will play Czechoslovakia in a semifinal either Wednesday or Thursday. Czechoslovakia's Karel

Novacek and Helena Sukova combined for an emphatic mixed doubles victory earlier Monday, eliminating the third-seeded U.S. team of Derrick Rostagno and Amy Frazier from the tourna-

Novacek and Sukova downed Rostagno and Frazier 6-2, 6-1 in the decisive doubles after the teams were locked at 1-1 following the singles.

Sukova defeated Frazier 7-6 (7-3), 6-7 (5-7) in a marathon opening women's singles at the

ted home only to find the referee

had already whistled for a foul

seconds before by Webb on

Leeds midfielder David Batty.

referee should have allowed play

to continue, they refused to be

demoralised and picked up a de-

served late equaliser with an

sent clear by team mate Gordon

Strachan, was sent crashing in the

area by England defender Gary

Pallister and Mel Sterland con-

ited with 48 points while Leeds

pionship clash with Karpov in

1990 while Karpov stuck to the

Kasparov said he expected to

maintain his title until the end of

the century but added he would

like to defend it against someone

other than Karpov in Los

match with somebody else, not

Kaprov," he said. "We have

played five matches and 160

games and become boring for the

Karpov plays Britain's Nigel

Karpov put up a splendid de-

Short in Spain next April in the

semifinal of the candidate match-

fensive performance Sunday to

salvage a draw in his clash with

Kasparov in the highest-ranked

Kasparov, with black pieces,

opened with a king's Indian de-

fence in the third round of the

International Category 18

Tournament and looked poised

for victory after going two pawns

ning one pawn and eventually

finding the only route to salvation

with both knights left on the

applauded both players at the end

of a six-hour, 61-move struggle.

out 2,000 spectators, many of

whom waited for hours to get into

chuk in the fourth round while

Kaprov plays Alexander Khalif-

one of the three halls.

The appreciative crowd warmly

Sunday's games attracted ab-

Kasparov meets Vassily Ivan-

But Karpov fought back, win-

event in chess history.

"I would prefer to play my next

The draw left Manchester Un-

Midfielder Gary McAllister.

80th-minute penalty.

verted from the spot.

Soviet Union colours.

Angeles in 1993.

audience."

board.

While Leeds clearly felt the

Perth Superdome, but Rostagno leveled the contest with a 6-0, 6-3 triumph over Novacek in the men's singles.

The Czechoslovak pair said their quarterfinal victory was sparked by anger at being seeded

"We were unhappy when we got here and found we were the No. 5 seeds," said Novacek. "Both of us wanted to prove to

ourselves, the tournament organisers and the other players that we deserved a higher placing." Second-seeded Spain, which

has yet to play, will meet the Netherlands in a quarterfinal Tuesday. The winning combination will share \$110,000, the runner-up

will share \$62,500. The Hopman Cup is one of a number of warm-up events for the Australian Open, to be played Jan. 13-26 at the National

Tennis Centre in Melbourne. Despite her condition. Graf took just 62 minutes to overcome

Graf was in an obvious hurry to finish the job. But in the second set she tired dramaticaly, dropping her serve at 4-2 and 5-3 before fighting back to break Halard in the 10th game and to love in the 12th.

. . .

Becker never let Leconte into their match, which lasted 79 mi-

nutes. The German was clearly delighted by his form. "I had an excellent start. My serve was good. I was moving well and I felt very good."

Early in the match a ballboy felt the fall power of the Becker backhand. Attempting a fierce passing shot from the baseline the German miscued and the ball struck the boy in the head knocking him senseless.

Becker and Leconte raced to the boy's aid and revived him with ice and water.

Becker said he expected Graf to be ready for Wednesday's match. "She needs a good night's sleep. She only arrived this morning so that's probably another reason she's not feeling so good."

Halard 6-0, 7-5. Sanchez 1st seed to tumble

South Africa's Christo van Rensburg fought off three match points to beat third seed Javier Sanchez of Spain 7-5, 6-7 (4-7), 7-6 (7-5) Monday in the first round of the \$182,500 Australian Hardcourt Tennis Cham-

Van Rensburg, 29, was down 0-40 at 4-5 in the 10th game of the third set but then held serve and finally won a thrilling contest in the tie-break.

Sanchez was the first to exit sets.

among eight seeded players. German sixth seed Carl-Uwe Steeb advanced to round two with a 6-1, 6-4 victory over Italian Renzo

the world, faced Sterner opposition from Furlan than indicated by the score.

teenager Thomas Enqvist rallied to defeat fellow qualifier Axel Finnberg of Germany in three

Auriol takes over lead in Paris-Cape Town rally

Hubert Auriol took over from compatriot and Mitsubishi team mate Bruno Saby after the 520km fourth stage of the Paris-Cape

Auriol, winner of the first African stage Thursday, repeated his Niger, beating four times Paris-Dakar winner Ari Vatanen of Finland in a Citroen by nearly

Saby, the French rally champion who is driving in the desert for the first time, lost previous ground in a crash halfway through the stage.

Auriol, the only race entrant to have taken part in all 13 Paris-Dakar races, which he won twice, led Japan's Kenjiro Shinozuka in another Mitsubishi by seven minutes and 59 seconds, according to provisional overall standings. Spain's Salvador Servia, driving a Lada, was third a further 37

Despite Saby's mishap, the Mitsubishis continued their

In the motorcycle section, France's Stephane Peterhansel on a Yamaha scored his second stage win of the rally ahead of American Danny Laporte, on a Cagiva.

Peanuts

wedding" pass halfway through

Italy's Alesandro de Petri, on a

of minutes to help the Frenchman right the vehicle but Saby still had to wait for the service truck to fix his broken rear suspension.

punctures with Vatagen and Sweden's Bjorn Waldegard both having to drive 300-400 km with no spare after two blow-outs at high speed.

rocky and we were very luck not to have more punctures." Auriol found his Paris-Dakar

"The course was rough in places but not as difficult as last year," he said. "The jumps were very tricky, you couldn't see them across the flat desert.

"They were like small waves in the sea, about 30 or 40 centimetres high, but they were very sharp and when you hit them you

SPORTS NEWS IN BRIEF

Lewis voted Champion of the Year

PARIS (R) — Carl Lewis, the world's fastest man, was voted sports champion of 1991 by a panel of experts from the prestigious French sports daily L'Equipe Monday. Lewis, who broke the 100 metres world record at the World Athletics Championships in Tokyo in August, just pipped fellow-American Mike Powell for the award. The winner also in 1983 and 1984, Lewis received 215 points in the voting to 213 for Powell, who beat Bob Beamon's 23-year-old world long jump record. Brazilian racing driver Ayrton Senna, who won the Formula One world title for the third time, was third on 134 points.

Porto overtakes Benfica at top

LISBON (R) - Porto stayed top of the Portuguese Soccer League on goal difference after champions Benfica were held 1-1 at home by lowly Penafiel. Porto took over after beating Gil Vicente 1-0 thanks to a penalty conceded in the dying minutes by substitute Ernst Remco who left two munutes after he came on. The Dutchman handled a cross from Porto striker Domingos Oliveira and was then sent off for arguing with the referee. Captain Joao Pinto scored from the spot. Porto, who have a game in hand, are level with Benfica on 24 points. Champions Benfica went ahead in the 42nd minute through Swede Matts Magnusson but Penafiel hit back a minute later with a goal from unmarked striker Antonio Rebelo.

Zoff to extend contract at Lazio

ROME (R) - Lazio coach Dino Zoff was poised to sign a new contract tying him to the Roman first division club until June 1994. "I've spoken with the club President (Gian Marco Calleri) and there are no problems," said Zoff, the goalkeeper on Italy's 1982 World Cup-winning team. "I like the atmosphere here and I'm happy to continue with the work which is starting to bear fruit," he said. Zoff, 48, who joined Lazio in May 1990 after having previously coached Juventus, is expected to sign a new contract in the next few days. Lazio, fourth in the Italian first division, also had good news from unsettled Uruguayan midfielder Ruben Sosa. "You could say there is a 70 per cent probability that I will stay in Rome," said Sosa, recently linked with a move to Real Madrid or Napoli at the end of the season. Sosa fears the forthcoming arrival of England midfielder Paul Gascoigne may deprive him of regular first team football. Gascoigne, currently recovering from a serious knee injury, will move to Lazio for \$10 million providing he passes a medical examination on May 31.

Shriver scores revenge victory

BRISBANE, Australia (AP) — American veteran Pam Shriver Monday scored her first singles victory since mid-October, defeating Akiko Kijimuta of Japan 6-4, 6-4 in the first round of the \$150,000 Danone Queensland Open. Shriver avenged a defeat by Kijimuta in the first round of the same tournament last year. The two-time champion, back to 37th in the world rankings after recovering from shoulder surgery, hit too hard and served too accurately for her out-gunned opponent, who was the beaten finalist here 12 months ago. "I was a little unsure of now I would play, but for the most part I didn't make too many mistakes," Shriver said. "If I play consistently well, serve well, I think I can get through a few rounds, but it is far too early to think about being a contender." Shriver now plays Mana Endo of Japan, a 6-1, 6-4 victor over American Stacey Martin. The ninth-seeded Shriver was joined in the second round of the 56-woman event by 12th-seeded compatriot Linda Harvey-Wild and 13th-seeded fellow American Debbie Graham. Harvey-Wild hit some excellent groundstrokes in defeating experienced German Eva Pfaff 6-1, 6-3, while Graham downed Karin Kschwendt of Germany 6-4, 7-6 (7-3).

Volkov advances in N. Zealand

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP) — Top-seeded Alexander Volkov of Russia defeated Jacco Eltingh of the Netherlands 6-4, 6-4 Monday in the first round of the \$182,500 BP Nationals Tennis Championship. Three other seeded players were eliminated while Volkov advanced to the last 16. Italian Diego Nargiso ousted fifth-seeded Brazilian Jaime Oncins 6-1, 0-6, 6-4 and German Lars Koslowski beat sixth-seeded Dutchman Mark Koevermans 7-6 (9-7), 6-4. American Jeff Tarango, a former college star at Stanford University, defeated eighth-seeded Swede Lars Jonsson 6-2, 6-2. Jonsson made the final of this event in 1990, losing to Australian Richard Fromberg.

Sunderland manager to step down

SUNDERLAND, England, (R) — Denis Smith agreed Monday to quit as manager of English soccer club Sunderland, who are 18th in the second division after being relegated from the first division last season. His departure after 4-1/2 years in charge reflects a frustrating season for the club, who started as favourites for promotion to the new premier league.

TEACHERS HAVE HOMES?

HE'S GOT A LOVELY LITTLE CONSCIENCE - IT NEVER KICKS - UPA FUSS TILL AFTER HE'S HAD HIS FUN

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR TUESDAY DECEMBER 31, 1991 By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Toand get his suggestions on how in day you will have a unique opporrid yourself of the undesirable factunity to sit back and observe what is happening. Avoid doing any-LIBRA: (September 23 to October thing until you have the chance to 22) Whatever you would like to do

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) You find one of your family is now in a position to render that favour that means so much to you and that can open new vistas of achievement for you.

evaluate things that are of current

concern to you.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) There is some surprise visitor or chance for you to make a call that turns out far better than you had imagined possible so be on the ball for this GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21)

There are a number of close companions who have some practical ideas by which you can have more of the good things of life so listen to understand their suggestions. MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to

July 21) Now you have it in your power to gain the goodwill of that personal chum who means so much to you and you can join in social pleasures. LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Make

cially with romantic attachment. VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) You now can talk out with that good friend that personal problem that has been of concern to you

points of difference that can be AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) There are a considerable number of tasks facing you and as you are unhappy when not busy get

that means bringing to light the

various talents with which you are

endowed before those who can

make them a worldly success is

SCORPIO: (October 23 to Novem.

ber 21) There are a number of

interesting new situations which

face you and there are the means

by which you can have success in

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to

December 21) You have lots to do

and much is expected of you by

others also so take time out to

think just how you can perform

such tasks exactly and efficiently.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to

January 20) Now you can come to

a real meeting of minds with those

who mean the most to you and you

find there a a quite a number of

good right now.

these new outlets.

sure that you carefully study whatat them and put them behind you ever data that will bring you the as quickly as you can. outlets that can be the ones that you privately enjoy the most espe-

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) You can have a very happy time during your spare moments now so think out what you would like to do the most and waste no time in making the arrangements



"What's good for a migraine?"

JUNE THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words. YULST Can Paper Paper at ROHTT MIULEH HOW THE FORMER FOOTBALL PLAYER NOW DOES MOST OF HIS KICKING. **TAIREW** Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise atlawer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

ACROSS 1 Dramatic Irena 6 Open wide 10 Close tightly 14 Notwithstanding 15 Arabian sultanate 16 Pol plant 17 Cartoon canary 19 Therefore 20 Bowler 21 Despot 22 Spotted cat 24 Like rush-hour traffic 26 Indeed 27 That girl 28 Bewildered 29 Ovine utterance 32 Bravery 35 Ellington of note 36 Ireland 37 Persian Gulf country 38 Designated 39 Mine diggings 40 Old title

8 Golf word 9 Backed 13 Booty 18 Belg. river

57 Helicopter

60 Actress Miles

61 - Lansing,

62 Fencing with

63 Concludes

64 June 6, 1944

65 Garden tool

DOWN

2 Egyptian dem

3 Religious art

Traits

work

4 Fruit drink

5 Ploneer .

bamboo sticks

23 Director's directive 25 Swiss river 26 Symbol 28 Measure of light 30 Nautical term

31 Likewise

32 Clamp 33 Solo 34 Star hoopster 35 Glant killer 36 Dive 38 Bride or groom 42 Dick or Jerry 44 Koppei 45 Offensive

49 Flying 50 En —I

58 Owned

(Answers temerrow) Jumbles: LUCID ELITE VASSAL GOPHER Answer: Why it's nice to start your working day riding in an elevator—IT GIVES YOU A "RISE"

THE Daily Crossword by Kenneth Witte

41 Steady 42 TV 61991 Tribune Media Services, Inc. All Rights Reserved 43 Caudiflower Yesterday's Puzzle Solved: follower 7 Moslem ruler PEUDTA PARADE 44 One of two 45 Rooter EVUVAL BRAGERIE ERIAISERS BURIOVER 46 Defer 48 Certain work of 10 Type of guitar AKIN TRADE SULP 11 One first on line 52 Not a soul e.g. 12 Jason's ship तात्रकार तवार समराहाम 54 Praise SERGOR TROPPE 55 Palid 56 Leave

ASSEMT DARTED PRINT PARAM TAME MADELICE SCOOPED RESIDED TEASES

47 Small amounts 48 Gomic Feldman 51 Witch of -

52 Glacial field 53 Yoked beasts 54 Mona —

Andy Capp

MATTER STREET OF THE I'M ASHAMED OF MESELF,





GOREN BRIDGE

with omar sharif . & Tannah Hirsch

North-South vulnerable. South

C1991 Tribune Media Services, Inc.

NORTH 4K108642 **7752** OAQ WEST EAST V 109843

AAQJ97 VAKJ 98742 The bidding: West North East South 2 NT 4 • 1 • Pass 5 4 Pass Pass

SOUTH

Pass Pass Opening lead: Queen of # We are not enamored of the Unusual No Trump overcall. If you do want to use it, we suggest you limit its application either to very weak hands, where you are looking for a sacrifice, or very strong hands, where you intend to buy the con-

tract or double the opponents. With

intermediate hands, it is better to

try to bid both of your suits rather than employ the convention. Given our thoughts on the Unusual No Trump, you will have gathered that, at this vulnerability, we do not mind West's overcall. It suc-

HEART IN THE RIGHT PLACE

ceeded in pushing North-South to the five-level and, since the fivelevel belongs to the opponents, East decided to let North-South struggle. West led the queen of clubs, covered by the king and won by the ace. Declarer ruffed the club continuation and drew trumps in one round, and it might seem that the contract hinged on either a finesse for the ♦ J 10 9 5 8 ♦ K 6 queen of hearts or the king of dia-monds succeeding. Judging from the +QJ1084 +A6532

auction, both figured to be right; however, a glance at the diagram suffices to show that, had declarer looked no deeper into the position, the contract would have been defeated Fortunately, declarer spotted that the heart finesse was an illusionthe contract could be guaranteed as

long as West held no more than two hearts, almost a sure bet in light of the bidding and the fact that West had produced a trump.

Declarer cashed the ace and king of hearts. As it happened, the queen dropped and the contract coasted home. Had it not appeared, declarer would have continued hearts, surrendering a trick to East. That defender would have been endplayed into either yielding a ruff-shuff or else leading a diamond into dummy's ace-queen tenace. Either way, declarer would not have lost more than a heart and a club.

in Australian Hardcourt ADELAIDE, Australia (AP) ---

pionships

The left-hander, ranked 38th in

Earlier Monday, Swedish

PARIS (R) - Frenchman after they were stuck in "the

Town Rally.

feat after a close finish in Tumu, eight minutes.

seconds behind.

sweep by placing three cars in the top four.

the stage.

Yamaha, finished fourth to retain his overall lead ahead of Peterhansel.

Saby rolled his Mitsubishi and then had a long wait in the scorching desert heat before assistance came. Shinozuka stopped for a couple

The Citroens all suffered

"It was a nightmare," Waldegard said. "It was very stony and

experience beloed.

jump very high," Auriol said.

The two fought an uphill battle

15 IT PROPER SURE WHERE DO TO SEND YOUR SEND IT? HOME, NOT? TEACHER A CHRISTMAS CARD?



Mutt'n'Jeff

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Jordan Times in co-operation with Cairo Amman Bank



Currency	Hew York Close	Tokyo Hidday	
	Mair 27/12/9	D-30/12/9	
Sterling Pound	1.87.42	1.6075	
Deutsche Mark	1.5188	1.5010	
Swiss Franc	1.5515	1.3541	
French Franc	5.1905	5.:8:5	
Japanese Yen	125.90	125,75	
Escopean Curreny Unit	1.3345	1.33ė0 **	

Personal Parties Rates			Date:	30/12/1991	
Ситепсу	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS	
U.S. Dollar	4.18	4. TC	4.12	i.06	
Sigrifug Pound	10.51	10.55	10.85	10.51	
Deutsche Mark	9.50	9.56	9.63	9.43	
Sais Franc	7.87	7-87	7.93	7.87	
pench Franc	10.31	10.31	10.35	10.12	
Intenese Yen	5.68	5.6C	5.43	5.25	
European Currency Unit	10.50	10.50	10.50	10.19	

Proclams Metals			Date:	30/12/1991	
Metal	USD/Oz	JD'Gm	Metal	L'SD O2	JD/Gm
Gild	353.50	6.80	Silver	3.87	0.055
M. Kura					

and the Bart					
Central Bank	of	Jordan	Exchange	Rate	Bulletin

	Date:	<i>30/17/199</i>]	
Derescy	Bid	Offer	
13. Dellar	0.÷740	0.6760	
Sterling Pound	1.2584	1.2647	
Depticite Mark	0.4326	0.4448	
Swiss Franc	v.2973	0.2995	
French Franc	0.1296	0.1300	
Japanese Yen	0.5351	ป.5378	
Dutch Guilder	0.3925	0.3445	
Swedish Krona	0.1211	0.1217	
Italian Lira*	0.0584	0.0587	
Belgian Franc	0.02150	0.07161	
Per 180		-	

Other Carrencies	Date:	30/12/1991 Offer	
Currency	Bid		
Bahraini Dinar	1.7590	1.7620	
Lehanese Lira*	0.0766	0.0770	
Saudi Riyal	0.1794	0.1800	
Kuwaiti Dinar			
Qatari Riyai	0.1526	0.1835	
Egyptian Pound	0.2000	0.2120	
Omani Riyal .	1.7250	1.7330	
UAE Dirham	0.1826	0.1835	
Greek Drachma*	0.3725	0.3745	
Cypriot Pound	1.5310	1.5425	

CAB Indices for Amman Figancial Market

Index	28/12/1991 Close	29/12/1991 Class
All-Share	129. 34	729. 72
Banking Sector	106. 72	106. 32
Insurance Sector	129. 45	129. 29
Industry Sector	163. 23	163. 47
Services Sector	143. <i>6</i> 9	144. 47

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) - Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Monday.

1.8735/45

One Sterms	1.0/22/22	O.D. 400
One U.S. dollar	1.1588/93	Canadian dollar
One C.S. Conta	1.5170/80	Deutschemarks
		Dutch guilders
	1.7090/7100	
	1.3505/15	Swiss francs
	31.23/28	Belgian francs
	5.1780/1880	French francs
	1148/1149	Italian lire
		Japanese yen
	125.80/90	
	5.440/5540	Swedish crowns
	5.9750/9850	Norwegian crows
	5.9050/9150	Danish crowns
	353.20/353.70	U.S. dollars
One comos of cold	474 /(U.J.2.), /U	C.D. Colles

One Sterling

Italian lire Japanese yen Swedish crowns Norwegian crowns Danish crowns

Tel: 677420

U.S. dollar

U.S. dollars

CONCORD

Banks catch Bond after 6-day chase

SYDNEY (R) — Failed tycoon Alan Bond, once called Australia's corporate houdini. was unable Monday to escape being

served with a bankruptcy notice. After a six-day chase, agents acting for a group of banks caught Mr. Bond at Sydney's Kingsford-Smith Airport to serve him with the 251 million dollar (\$190 miltion) notice.

Solicitor Hamish Young, acting for a group of banks led by the Hongkongbank of Australia Ltd., told reporters the notice was served after Mr. Bond arrived on an early-morning flight from Bali. It requires Mr. Bond to pay the amount within 28 days.

Mr. Bond said "thank you," folded the notice and put it in his pocket, Mr. Young added.

The notice was the second Mr. Bond has received from the same * group of banks over a personal guarantee he gave on a loan to his family company, Dallhold Investments PTY Ltd. Mr. Bond sued the banks in

notice was invalid, but lost the A few days later the former tycoon was chased by a court official in a car after leaving home

September saying the bankruptcy

and was finally handed the notice in a Perth parking lot. But the notice was later deemed invalid on technical grounds, and a fresh notice which the banks say removes the technicality — was issued before Christmas. Process servers spent

Mr. Bond's house, to no avail. Mr. Bond has said in statements tendered to the courts that he had a deficiency of assets over liabilities of about 40 million dol-

the Christmas holidays stalking

Once among the cream of Australia's entrepreneurs, Mr. Bond built up his Bond Corp Holdings Ltd. into a 10 billion dollar (\$7.6 billion) brewing, media, resources and real estate empire in the 1980s.

At his peak, he paid 49 million dollars (\$37 million) for the Van Gogh painting "Irises," was made Australian of the year, and became the first successful forcigner in 132 years to wrest the America's Cup yachting trophy from the United States.

But after racking up huge debts and reporting one of the country's biggest corporate losses Mr. Bond resigned in September 1990 as Bond Crop. chairman, leaving the company restructuring itself to stave off liquidation. In Perth, Mr. Bond's solictor

Stephen Paterniti said he would seek a stay of the judgment handed down in September by making an application to the New South Wales Court of Appeal. Mr. Paterniti said even if the

stay application failed, Mr. Bond would seek special leave to appeal to the High Court, Australia's highest court, against the original judgment.

"If successful it would mean his obligation to pay is completely

expunged," he said. An application to the High Court might not be made for several months, depending on the court's Sydney sittings, Mr. Paterniti said.

He said if the stay application failed and the 28-day period for payment expired, the banks would still have to start bankruptcy proceedings against Mr. Bond in the Federal Court.

UAE shares end year on high note

ABU DHABI (R) - Share prices in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) ended 1991 on a high note, up 26.1 per cent on their value a year ago, the National Bank of Abu Dhabi

The bank, which has its own share index in the absence of anofficial stock exchange, said the index closed at 1,506.6 on Dec. 30, compared with 1,119.9 on Dec. 30, 1990.

It said the unofficial market recovered significantly from March, shortly after the end of

the Gulf war. The bank, whose index measures 22 major UAE stocks, said it did not have a figure for the total volume of shares traded. It said only one public company was floated in 1991.

The crisis at the Bank of Credit and Commerce International (BCCI), a major force in the UAE economy, kept investors away in the second half of the

But the report said investor confidence had returned graduaily in November and December with the expectation that company results would be better than expected in 1991.

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

SYDNEY — TOKYO — Stocks soared after the Bank of Japan cut the official discount rate by one half of a percentage point to 4.5 per cent. The Nikkei average rose briefly above the 23,000 mark on the last day of 1991 trading before closing 546.45 points up at 22,983.77.

PARIS — Share prices finished higher in slender holiday trade, with last minute purchases for end-of-year accounts pushing up prices. The CAC-40 Index closed 21.21 points or 1.23 per cent higher at 1,741.86.

LONDON - Sharp gains for drug shares and a stronger New York market took the FTSE 100 index to a marginally higher close with sentiment kept in check by sterling worries. The index ended 1.3 points up at 2,420.

NEW YORK — Blue chips surged to fresh session highs in the early afternoon, continuing last week's record rise. At 1742 GMT, the Dow was up 33.32 at 3,134.84.

HONG KONG — The market rose on the back of rallies in Tokyo and New York. The Hang Seng Index closed 39.00 points higher at 4,275.20.

SINGAPORE — Share prices closed higher for the fifth consecutive session. The Blue-chip Straits Times Industrial Index finished 9.11 points up at 1,476.98.

BOMBAY — The market was closed from Dec. 25 to 31 for the Christmas holiday. The BSE index finished last Tuesday at 1,908.85, down 6.27 points.

Britain resists devaluation of sterling

LONDON (R) — Britain's conservative government Monday resisted pressure to devalue the pound sterling or to raise interest rates despite new signs of economic stagnation in the run-up to a general election whch must be

held next year. Reports of record business failures in the past 12 months coupled with forecasts of higher unemployment and continued gloom in the housing market prompted calls for action from leading businessmen and worried Conservative politicians.

Treasury Minister John Maples said the government was committed to keeping the pound within its bands in the European Community's exchange rate mechanism (ERM) of currency management, adding that there was little it could do to improve the economy in the short term.

"Any levers of economic policy you pull have a lead time of a few months so I don't think there's much which one can do which has a short-term effect. We feel that we have put the right elements in place," Mr. Maples said in a radio interview.

way, he added. Although the pound drifted limit in thin trading, Mr. Maples said: "It looks as though we pound at its present level and with present interest rates."

of the Exchequer Norman Lamont might resort to a politically damaging interest rate rise should that be needed. "If... it is necessary to raise interest rates, he's made it clear he'll do so. Mr. Maples said.

Newspaper were filled with bad news for the government, which is depending heavily on its traditional image as a responsible economic manager to fight off a challenge from a resurgent opposition Labour Party in an election widely expected in April or May.

With Labour entering 1992 six points ahead in the latest opinion poll, party leader Neil Kinnock claimed in his new year message that the recession had "shrivelled the economy and crushed confi-

Dun and Bradstreet, a business information agency, found that businesses were failing at a rate of

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Japan's central bank cuis key lending rate to 4.5% Governor Yasushi Mieno denied TOKYO (AP) — Japan's central

bank cut its official discount rate Monday from five per cent to 4.5 per cent — its third reduction in six months to bolster a sagging

есополу. Many analysts linked the central bank's move to next week's visit by U.S. President Bush, who is expected to seek action from Tokyo to reduce the huge trade surplus with the United States. Some Japanese officials have called for easier credit as a way to increase domestic demand for im-

"There might have been strong political pressure on the central bank to lower its key lending rate before President Bush's visit ... because no specific pump-priming measures have emerged yet from the cabinet of (Prime Minister Kiichi) Miyazawa," said Susumu Nozaki, an economist with Tokai Bank.

The central bank "moved quickly now to avoid the impression of having yielded to foreign pressure," said Yukio Takahashi, an analyst at Wako Securities. But at a press conference Mon-

day morning, Bank of Japan

that the bank's action was connected to the visit.

The key lending rate is what the Bank of Japan charges on loans to commercial banks. The bank also cut the discount rate by half a percentage point July 1 and

"With the latest reduction there will be a substantial impact on corporate investment, which has cooled recently," said Mr.

Stocks rose strongly on the announcement.

The rate cut at first strengthened the dollar, which had plunged against the Japanese yen since the U.S. discount rate was cut by one percentage point earlier this month.

But by late morning the dollar was trading around the level of Friday's close on expectations that the United States would follow suit and further cut interest

The central bank's rate cut is intended to spur Japan's economic growth, which has been slug-

gish recently. Some analysts predict growth

next year will only be 2.2 per cer to 2.5 per cent, down from t International Monetary Fun estimate of 3.8 per cent for 199 A Bank of Japan survey la month showed that major many facturers have revised their for-

year ending March 31 sharps downward. "It is the judgment of the ban that this action will provide suff cient monetary conditions for achieving more balanced non-h flationary growth," the centr.

-casts for pretax profits for the

bank said in a statement. "Bearish sentiment is sureac ing among investors as grown decelerates," said Trade Minists Kozo Watanabe. "In such cicumstances, we believe this mea

sure is timely." The finance ministry, which included a \$5.62 billion tax in crease in the fiscal 1992 budge recently approved by the cabina because of declining tax receipt welcomed the move.

"This cut in the discount ras will have a desirable impuction a facets of the economy," Finance Minister Tsutomu Hata said in statement.

A slow recovery was under China's rents rise tomorrow down against the German mark and approached its lower ERM In housing reform move limit in thin trading. Mr. Mandes

BEIJING (R) — China's leadmight well be able to sustain the ers. battling a crippling budget deifict, will raise rents in Beijing and several other areas next year But he added that Chancellor, to push forward housing reform, state television said Monday.

> The new system will go into effect Jan. 1 for residents of Beijing, the port city of Tianjin and the central province of Shaanxi, the television said. Rent rises would be "slight," it

> However, one Beijing resident said he had already been told his rent would double from three yuan (56 U.S. cents) a month to six vuan about (\$1).

> The television gave no details of the new system. It said new houses would have rents on a different scale from old houses, and homes would be available for

Massive subsidies for housing and food are helping to cripple China's budget, which this year will have a deficit several billion yuan above the target of 12.3 billion yuan (\$2.27 billion), the chief cabinet spokesman told a news conference Monday.

Rents have been held extremely low since the communists came to power in 1949.

The average urban worker makes more than 200 yuan (\$37) a month, including bonuses. Officials have said their goal is to make rents about five per cent of

Housing reform was first proposed a decade ago as a key part of economic revitalisation.

It has been implemented slowly in several areas. The government has moved cautiously for fear of sparking

inflation and social unrest. Moves to sell houses have foundered because of the extremely low rents that make purchases uneconomical.

Few people, want to invest in property because of the low standard of construction and because the concept of ownership still has no clear legal definition in the socialist state.

Peking's chief spokesman said Monday that spurred by reform and political stability, China's economy posted a banner year in 1991 — in happy contrast to depression and political chaos sweeping other parts of the

State Council (cabinet) spokesman Yuan Mu painted a rosy picture of record production, overfulfilled growth targets, stable prices and low inflation, and said 1992 would be even

"We enjoy political stability and this provides a very impotant precondition and guarante for the stable development of or economy," he told a news confe

"This contrasts sharply was

the slow growth of the wet. economy and the instability an turbulence in some other cou tries and regions." he said. Mr. Yuan said Beijing's dec

sion to promote economic refor: while suppressing political disser after the failed pro-democrat protests of 1989 had helped Caia to set its economy on a course "normal development."

"From 1989 to 1991, we have basically achieved our targets for economic retrenchment," he sai adding that the official austern programme set in place in la 1988 to curb massive inflation ha

achieved its goal. Mr. Yuan said China's gro national product (GNP) grown in 1991 would hit seven per cen far outstripping the cautious 4 per cent estimate state plante

set at the beginning of the year

Industrial production from e:

terprises outside of rural are: would grow by 13.2 per cen more than double the early est mate of six per cent, he said. Mr. Yuan glossed over critic problems plaguing the mammoi and unproductive state secto

which has been sucking up bi lions of dollars in state subsidic



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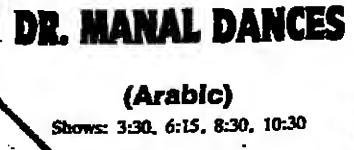
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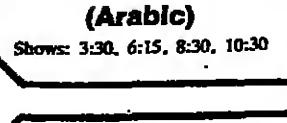


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Tel: 625155 Cinema RAINBOW TERMINATOR "2" JUDGEMENT DAY

Show: 3:30, 6:30, 8:30 p.m.

New commonwealth moves hesitantly into 1st major trial

MINSK, Byelorussia (R) — The Soviet state, were wary of any Commonwealth of Independent States, frail successor to the old discuss disputes on economic and nomy. military policy.

sin flew into the Byelorussian capital Minsk. insisting the new 11-nation coalition was strong. Asked what issues threatened its future, Mr. Yeltsin, pivotal

figure in the commonwealth, replied brusquely: "Nothing and no Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk, who has the power to make or break the community. appeared more sceptical. "We

must wait and see what kind of commonwealth it is and only then talk about signing any joint charter," he told Interfax News Agen-The commonwealth was formally founded nine days ago after the final collapse of the 69-year-

old Soviet state. The move marked the end of President Mikhail Gorbachey's rule but held out hopes that the some form of alliance between Russia and Ukraine could be salvaged. creasingly in question.

A spokesman for Kazakhstan's President Nursultan Nazarbayev said the republics, having thrown off the control of the centralised the Ukrainian economy. Higher

Russian domination.

"Russia must not be our big Soviet Union, faced its first trial brother," he said. "But there is Monday when leaders met to no way around a single eco-

Ukrainian President Kravchuk Russian President Boris Yelt- shook two of the commonwealth's central pillars before Monday's meeting started.

> On economic and defence policy, both of crucial importance to the international community, he appeared at loggerheads with his powerful Russian counterpart and other republics.

> Mr. Kravchuk told reporters the idea of a common rouble currency, agreed earlier by Commonwealth republics, now appeared to be a "fiction."

> Ukraine, he said, would take measures to protect its economy when Russia freed prices to market levels on Jan. 2 — a day that may strain the fibre of the new community as well as arousing tensions within Russia itself.

> He said Ukraine, with its powerful industrial and agricultural base, would not join Russia in radical price reforms Thursday.

"We move to a market by a That alliance now appears in- somewhat different path." he said. Ukrainian price reforms were expected on Jan. 10.

The liberalisation of prices on Jan. 2 could exert great strains on

prices in Russia could move many Russians to buy up goods in Ukrainian shops. It would also tempt Ukrainian farmers to evade border controls and sell their produce on the territory of the neighbouring republic.

Ukraine is moving to introduce special coupons as a form of partial replacement currency to protect its stocks at a time when shortages are dogging the entire former Soviet Union.

Ukraine and Russia also disagree over the future of the armed forces that had served the Soviet state.

"All non-strategic forces in the Black Sea Fleet should belong to Ukraine," Mr. Kravchuk said before the meeting.

Mr. Yeltsin, who moved into Gorbachev's Kremlin office four days ago, refuses to accept this. "Historically, the Black Sea Fleet was always Russian. But probably Ukraine has some right to lay claim to some part of it," he said.

The Black Sea Fleet, a vital arm of what was once the Soviet Navy, is based in the Ukrainian port of Sevastopol.

Mr. Yeltsin suggested the Soviet Armed Forces should be reformed into commonwealth forces over a transitional period of about three years.

the commonwealth should retain gures.

a united system of armed forces. But Ukraine plans its own army and agrees to co-operation only over strategic weapons based on its territory.

While accepting that Mr. Yeltsin should have central control over the nuclear arms based in four republics, Mr. Kravchuk is demanding more clearly defined veto rights over their use.

The talks appeared to make little progress in the initial twohour-spell set aside to cover a 10-point agenda ranging from finance to economic reform and military matters.

Leaders agreed only on the first agenda point — the creation of co-ordinating bodies — before adjouring for a half-hour break. Talks then resumed.

The leaders were also expected to discuss a bloody conflict between Azerbaijan and Armenia over the territory of Nagorno-Karabakh, a largely Armenian enclave situation within Azerbaiian and ruled from the Azerbaijani capital, Baku.

TASS News Agency said an Azerbaijani tank column had taken up position on the edge of the territory's capital, Stepanakert, during the night and was shelling the city.

and then 30 or 40 shells come

down at once," the duty officer at

the police station said. "They are

falling everywhere on every part

"It gets quiet just long enough

The offensive against Karlovac

for people to feel secure and

and rocket attacks on Zagreb's

suburbs this weekend marked a

of the town.

leave their shelters."

ited Nations to send its full It said people had been killed peacekeeping force to Cambodia The Russian president insists in the shelling, but gave no fias soon as possible because recent unrest has threatened the accord,

'Georgian rebels to storm parliament'

TBILISI, Georgia (R) — A said: "Yes." senior Georgian rebel commander said Monday his forces were preparing to storm the Trans-Caucasian republic's parliament ment, Major Lanchava said his where President Zviad Gam- National Guards were being sakhurdia has been under siege' backed by the Mkhedrioni, an for more than a week.

A 44. 11

Fighting raged along Rustaveli which claims several thousand Avenue, the main thoroughfare supporters. in the capital, Tbilisi, through the morning.

rebel National Guards, backed by the shadowy Mkhedrioni (horse- at strategic locations. men) opposition group, had the power to force their way into the and others in distinctive black fortified complex.

had launched a successful counter-attack through the city centre after losing some positions to government forces fighting from their base in the parliament.

Asked if they were now preparing to storm the parliament, he rioni leader) took everything he

PHNOM PENH (AP) — A hated

Khmer Rouge leader who nar-

rowly escaped being lynched last

month returned under heavy

guard Monday and joined the first

government-guerrilla meeting on

carrying out a peace treaty to end

The Cambodian factions and

five world powers urged the Un-

said guerrilla spokesman Pol

U.N. negotiators worked against rolling."

But Secretary-General Javier

Perez de Cuellar, who retires on

Dec. 31 after two five-year terms

in office, left little hope Sunday

that a final agreement would be

here on Dec. 31 (when) bells will

ring and flags will be raised," he

said of the talks between the day.

"We don't expect a ceremony

completed by then.

their 13-year-old civil war.

Speaking outside rebel headquarters at the opposite end of Rustaveli Avenue from parliaunderground opposition group

At least half a dozen armoured personnel carriers were stationed But it was not clear whether on the avenue and some largecalibre machineguns were visible

Rebels, some wearing helmets woollen hats, crouched at corners Rebel guard Major Gela Lanchava with rocket-and grenadetold Reuters opposition forces launchers, automatic rifles and other weapons.

"We have enough equipment," Major Lanchava said. "The Mkhedrioni brought this and are fighting with us.

"Jaba Ioseliani (the Mkhed-

Khmer Rouge leader back in Phnom Penh

An estimated 10,000 U.N.

peacekeepers are to be dispatch-

ed to Cambodia to monitor the

truce and disarm the factions but

so far only a small advance con-

The meeting at the royal palace

was the first on Cambodian soil of

the Supreme National Council

(SNC). The reconciliation body

comprises leaders of the

Vietnamese-government and its

guerrilla opponents the Khmer

Movement seen in Salvador peace talks

"Clearly President Cristiani's

The New Year's Eve deadline is

presence here makes a huge dif-

ference in terms of speed of

decisions," Mr. De Soto said.

self-imposed by all parties who

wish to see Mr. Perez de Cuellar,

a Peruvian, finish the talks before

his successor, Dr. Boutros Ghali

of Egypt, assumes office Wednes-

doran Armed Forces, creation of

tingent has arrived.

had and handed it over to us." As he spoke, rebels were following up the counter attack around the Hotel Tbilisi, their headquarters before it was des-

troyed by fire. "Kutaisi, Kutaisi, Kutaisi," they shouted as a battalion from the provincial Georgian city of that name moved into action, crossing Rustaveli Avenue and advancing towards the Hotel

"They (Gamsakhurdia forces) went into attack in the morning and occupied some of our positions. A few minutes ago we took them back," Major Lanchava

Tbilisi.

Mr. Gamsakhurdia's men, who have been resisting rebel attacks for more than a week, widened their area of control after opposition military leaders had started to unite against him and called for his resignation at the weekend.

Rouge and two non-Communist

The meeting had been post-

poned twice - first after the

attempt on Khieu Samphan's life,

then after anti-corruption pro-

tests by students and civil ser-

vants erupted into riots two

A Nov. 27 meeting was cancel-

led after a mob shouting

"murderer" stormed the Khmer

Rouge villa in Phnom Penh and

nearly lynched Khmer Rouge

The FMLN has been reluctant

to lay down its arms until it is

convinced the 53,000-member

army, accused of gross human

rights abuses, is restructured and

security forces dominated by the

mediate demobilisation of the

The government wants im-

Amid a day of talks between

various groupings of the com-

batants, a high-level party of U.S.

officials spoke to Mr. Cristiani as

well as ambassadors from Mex-

plan for El Salvador after accords

were signed that would include

Japan and European Community

army are phased out.

FMLN.

members.

President Khieu Samphan.

weeks ago.

Fur coats for the homeless — in sunny California?

Spanish king cuts

BAQUEIRA, Spain (AP) —

King Juan Carlos cut short his

annual skiing holiday after twist-

ing his knee on the slopes of this

Pyrenean resort. An out-of-con-

trol skier barreled into Juan

Carlos, knocking him down and

causing what appeared to be a

minor injury to his right knee, a

royal spokesman told the Spanish

News Agency (EFF). The

spokesman said the king was rest-

ing in his vacation home near the

northeastern Spanish resort but

planned to return to Madrid for

X-rays. Queen Sofia and

youngest Daughter Cristina spent

the morning on the slopes. The

rovals had originally planned to

stay at Baqueira through next

weekend.

short holiday

SANTA ANA, California (R) — More than 30 women were walking around this posh Los Angeles suburb Tuesday sporting fur coats. It's not an unusual sight in southern California where they are worn as a mark of prestige rather than to keep out the cold - but these women are homeless. The furs, all used, were a gift to the women from a local furrier, Ted Bizakis, who explained that he wanted to do something for the homeless at Christmas. The women didn't care that fur coast aren't a dire necessity during southern California's winter, when the temperature averages about 65 degrees Fahrenheit (18 degrees

Celsius) and rarely falls below 50 F (10 C). The coats, they said, made them feel good, and when you have no money and no home and it is Christmas, feeling good is important. "It's always been a fantasy to have a coat. Just wearning it makes me feel special," said Simone Leone, who was draped in a full length mink. Bettie Williams agreed. "This (coat) makes me feel important, and I needed that," she said. The coats-were delivered to the women as a surprise as they sat

Cicciolina passes political torch

to co-star

down to dinner at a local shelter.

MILAN (R) — "Cicciolina," Italy's controversial parliamentarian who made a fortune in movies, is returning to the private life of a porn star. But those quirky Italian voters who elected her five years ago need not worry. Her protege Moana Pozzi, who has co-starred with Cicciolina in many hardcore films, will be running to succeed her in the hallowed halls of the Rome's Chamber of Deputies. Cicciolina, (little cuddly one) whose real name is Ilona Staller, announced through her manager that she would not seek re-election to the seat she won on the Radical Party ticket. Ms. Staller, Pozzi, and manager Riccardo Schicchi last September founded the "Party Of Love," strations were held daily through- whose stated object is to "bring love to parliament." Mr. Schicchi, whose business as porn entrepreneur and agent has received massive pubilicity since Ms. Staller was elected, said Ms. Pozzi would run in Milan for a seat in parliament in spring elections. "I believe that this society needs more love,' Ms. Pozzi, wearing a low-cut dress, told a news conference called to announce her candidacy. "I will do everything physically possible to bring love into parliament."

China issues 'birth control cards' to migrant workers

PEKING (R) — China has

enacted new rules requiring millions of migrant workers to carry "birth control cards" to prove they are obeying the one-childper-family policy, the official China Daily said. The cards, to include information on the bearer's marital status, birth record and use of birth control, must be presented before a migrant worker may take a job, seek a business licence or apply for a residence permit. They will be issued to most of China's estimated 70 miles lion migrant workers, who in the past have often managed to evade the government's birth control teams to have forbidden second, third and fourth babies, the newspaper said. Drawn by the promise of a better life in booming coastal regions, million of migrants from China's hinterland have flooded into eastern cities such as Peking, Shanghai and Canton to take temporary jobs on construction projects and in factories.

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

Imelda Marcos to take over party

MANILA (AP) — Former first lady Imelda Marcos was endorsed Monday by her late husband's political party as its candidate for president in next May's elections. Mrs. Marcos avoided making a categorica! announcement that she would run in the May 11 election but told about 300 members of the New Society Movement that "what the people ask me to do, Imelda will do." The delegates chanted "Imeida, Imeida" after unanimously approving resolutions declaring the widow of President Ferdinand Marcos as leader of the party and its candidate to succeed President Corazon Aquino. Those who attended Monday's convention were die-hard supporters of Mrs. Marcos, and the outcome of the session was never in doubt. "I am open (to running)," Mrs. Marcos told reporters afterward. "I am not disregarding nor obsessing for it." Mrs. Marcos said she would talk with other opposition presidential hopefuls, including businessman Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco, Vice President Salvador Laurel and Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile, to see if they could agree on a single candidate.

Panic causes 8 deaths at U.S. rap game

NEW YORK (AP) — The subterranean gymansium where eight people died in a crush to get inside for a charity basketball game was jammed with as many as 2,000 people beyond its legal capacity, police said Sunday. "It was oversold," said Mayor David Dinkins. In addition to the eight deaths, dozens were injured Saturday night at the charity eventy staged at City College by rap music stars. After viewing videotape shot from the bleachers during the melee, police said the gym in Harlem held up to 2,000 people more than its legal capacity of 2,730. Despite the overcrowding, tickets were still being sold at the door, said Mario Salvaggi, a city police patrol chief. Charles Hirsch, chief medical examiner, said the victims all were asphyxiated - "squeezed front to back" - in the stairwel! leading to the basement gym. They included three women and five men and ranging in age from .16 to 28.

Corsican separatists blow up villas

AJACCIO, Corsica (R) — Corsican separatists blew up 30 holiday villas on the East Coast of the island overnight after the independence movement pledged to step up its campaign against French rule. Police said a commando group first led a watchman and his family to safety and then laid explosives in a holiday village of 54 villas built near Sorbo Ocagnano. Bomb disposal experts defused seven charges that had not yet gone off. The attack was announced by members of the separatist movement FLNC, who summoned journalists to a secret midnight news conference to tell them the group was escalating its campaign.

Turner names Time's Man of the Year

NEW YORK (AP) — American media mogul Ted Turner was named Time magazine's Man of the Year Saturday by editors who cited the impact of his Cable News Network's (CNN) live television coverage of events around the globe. Mr. Turner, 53, was hailed as a "visionary" whose network changed the definition of news "from something that has happened to something that is happening at the very moment you are hearing of it," the news magazine said. "For influencing the dynamic of events and turning viewers in 150 countries into instant witnesses of history, Robert Edward Turner III is Time's Man of the Year for 1991," the magazine concluded. Mr. Turner, whose Atlanta-based Turner Broadcasting System Inc. also operates Turner Network Television and Cable superstation WTBS, said he was "extremely honoured" by the award, but credited his employees for his company's success. "These dedicated individuals share a common goal of informing, entertaining and inspiring audiences around the world with quality programming," he said. "In accepting this, honour, I salute their efforts."

Actress Cassandra Harris dies

LOS ANGELES (R) — Australian actress Cassandra Harris, who played ex-mistress of her real-life husband, Pierce Borsnan, in the U.S. television series Remington Steele, died Saturday of cancer, her publicity agent said. Harris, 39, waged a four-year battle against ovarian cancer and Brosnan stopped working to care for her and their three children, the publicist, Dick Guttman, said. She died at the University of Southern California Cancer Centre in Los Angeles, where she had been treated for several weeks. "Her courage and strength during her illness made it easier for those who loved her," Guttman said. Harris appeared with Roger Moore in the James Bond film For Your Eyes Only in 1981. Harris was a child actress in Sydney and met Brosnan when she went to London to join the National Theatre. In between stage appearances, she had leading roles in British television productions, including All Out At Kangaroo Valley and The Boy Merlin series. She played Steele's ex-mistress, Felicia, in the television series Remington Steele, but she limited her acting in the United States so she could bring up her children, Charlotte, 19, Christopher, 18, and Sean, seven.

Yugoslav army keeps up attack on Karlovac

ZAGREB (R) — The Yugoslav army kept up a relentless bombardment of the key Croatian town of Karlovac into the night, turning it into the main flashpoint of fighting in the breakaway re-

"In the past few days, Karlovac has become the main battlefield in Croatia," Croatian radio said. Karlovac, 55 kilometres south west of Zagreb, is a crucial link between the Croatian capital and the republic's south, including the Adriatic coast.

Police in Karlovac told Reuters by telephone that the town was constantly bombarded throughout Sunday and explosions were continuing into the night.

serious escalation in fighting between Croatia and the Serb-led federal army.

Croatia said surface-to-surface missiles fired by the army were responsible for six loud explosions in Zagreb Sunday. Western journalists visited the site of two of the explosions and saw craters "It's quiet for about 10 minutes and damage to houses.

End of an era comes for U.S. army in Europe

U.S. army has quietly begun an are to remain in Europe, but recent weeks that brought home steeper cuts. 40,000 soldiers, 48,000 spouses and children, 10,000 pets and

15,000 cars. The reduction in forces, made possible by the end of the cold war but put on hold during the Gulf war, is in full swing. Some days, as many as 500

military men and women leave their posts. No one replaces them. Gen. Gordon Sullivan, the army's top general, said the move reflects the reduced Soviet threat and changed U.S. military

forces based at home to deal with crises around the globe. "It is a different world in 1992 than the world of the last 40 years," the four-star general said

strategy, which relies more on

foolish not to respond." Plans for the "drawdown" of army forces in Europe means that by 1995, its four divisions of 213,000 soldiers will be slashed to two divisions made up of 92,000 men and women. Overall, some

WASHINGTON (AP) — The 150,000 U.S. military personnel exodus from Europe — a shift in budget pressures may force even

> Europe for assignments in the United States if they're not being released from active duty, offi-

> moves can't come fast enough. "I don't think anybody thinks that there's going to be ... Warsaw Pact troops rolling across the Rhine, and yet we till have massive numbers of people still sitting around there," Rep. Patricia Schroeder, D-Colorado, told reporters recently. "The way we

in an interview. "We would be erations Desert Shield and Desert Europe to Saudi Arabia.

> in the last weeks of 1991. troops left European posts, most

Pakistani tribunal exonerates ISLAMABAD, Pakistan (AP) —

A judicial tribunal has cleared the Most of the soldiers leave son-in-law of President Ghulam Ishaq Khan of charges that he-Benazir Bhutto. Some critics of the military's

involvement overseas say the are deployed now just doesn't

The army had planned to begin moving tens of thousands troops homeward much earlier, but op-Storm pulled 76,000 troops from

Now, transfers have increased Army officials say 40,000 in Germany, by the end of 1991.

ico, Colombia, Spain and Venegovernment and the rebel Fara-Progress, according to diplozuela, who have been acting as mats, was achieved in each of the bundo Marti National Liberation advisers in the negotiations. Front (FMLN). major disputed areas, with none In an effort to give momentum Instead, he said he was aiming of them totally resolved. to the talks, Western diplomats Negotiators have been concensaid the United States was contrating on reduction of the Salvasidering a major reconstruction

UNITED NATIONS (R) — movement, the ball is rolling, it is

the clock to carve out a peace 'He said the arrival Sunday of

accord that would end El Salva- Salvadoran President Alfredo

dor's civil war by New Year's Cristiani was crucial.

at "substantive irreversible" accords that could be signed in

His chief mediator, Alvaro De a new national police force and Soto, told reporters after talks economic and social issues such ended for the day: "There is as land reform.

politicians in alleged rape charges. A judicial tribunal heard his powerful Khattar tribe.
testimony from police about the Ms. Hyatt said she was dra

plotted the gang-rape of a close friend of former Prime Minister In the ruling issued late Sun-The woman's father, prominent politicians Shaukat Hyatt, vowed Monday to carry out the death sentence that a tribal council passed on Irfanullah Marwat and

others accused of involvement in the November incident. Veena Hyatt, 38, accused Marwat of orchestrating the nightlong alleged incident." attack by five masked gunmen.

Ms. Hyatt on Monday reiter-Mr. Marwat also is an adviser to chief Minister Jam Saddiq Ali of Sindh province, Ms. Bhutto's Ms. Bhutto has contended the

attack was a "surrogate rape" of her and was aimed at diminishing the influence of her left-leaning Pakistan People's Party (PPP). two-week crackdown on party activists in which hundreds of her supporters were arrested. Mr.

attack, but Ms. Hyatt denounced the tribunal as a ploy to conceal Mr. Marwat's involvement and forbade his daughter to testify.

day, Justice Abdul Rahim Kazi cleared Mr. Marwat of involvement and said he did not have enough evidence to determine whether a rape had occurred.

In addition, he said, "it can be assumed that there would hardly be any political motive behind the

ated his contempt for the tribunal. "I said from the beginning I had no faith in a tribunal that had been set up by those who are supposedly in charge of law and order in Sindh," he said.

"The eyes of government may be closed, but God is great and The attack occurred during a sees all. Inshallah (God willing). justice will be done," he said. He referred to the death sentence on the rape participants Marwat vehemently denied the issued two weeks ago by elders of

Ms. Hyatt said she was dragged

by the hair from room to room of her home and raped repeatedly by five masked men during a 12-hour ordeal. She said Mr. Marwat's name was mentioned by her attackers, who repeatedly asked her about her friendship with Ms. Bhutto.

Ms. Hyatt said they wanted to know why she visited Ms. Bhutto and what she did while with her. For almost two weeks, demon-

out Pakistan to protest the alleged attack on Ms. Hyatt and what feminists decribed as an increase in politically motivated attacks on women.

Ms. Bhutto says several female party workers have been sexually assaulted to send a message to the party leadership.

Pakistan's penalty for rape is stoning to death, but the law requires there be four male witnesses to the rape for a conviction or that a signed confession be made by the rapist.

New Vietnam constitution removes basic Socialist rights

political enemy.

HANOI (R) — Vietnam Monday unveiled a draft constitution that reaffirms one-party Communist rule but removes basic Socialist rights and formalises free market economic reforms. The document, prompted by

the worldwide collapse of socialism, aims to increase the power of the elected National Assembly while curbing the influence of the Communist Party, officials and a member of the assembly said. The draft, replacing the current 1980 constitution, is expected to

be ratified by the National Assembly in April. "Over the last decade, the world has witnessed profound and all-round changes," Nguyen Huy Thuc, a member of the Constitution Editing Committee.

told a Hanoi news conference

announcing the draft. "Many articles and provisions in the present constitution are no longer suitable and appropriate for renewal and reform of our

He said the revised constitution would be a basis for new laws that "will help us to get our country out of all crises and difficulties and achieve our objective namely socialism as our people have chosen."

However, the draft formalises capitalist-style economic reforms and removes basic socialists rights guaranteed under the previous constitution, including the right to work, to housing, free health care and eduction. "We deemed that we are not

able to realise or implement those articles," Mr. Thuc said. For example, he said, "even among state employees, only about 30 per cent are provided with houses by the state. So if we still maintain the articles that citizens are entitled to housing, I think it

is no longer appropriate." 'the draft says the state can offer exemptions on school and hospital fees and encourages

The assembly will elect a president as head of state who will also have increased powers and the right, along with the Council of State which he heads, to issue decrees between assembly ses-The draft formalises the princi-

ples of open market economic reforms first adopted in the 1980s while stating that the economy remains "Socialist-orientated." It protects the assets of foreign companies, guaranteeing them against nationalisation, and formalises the right of foreigners to live and work in Vietnam.

The draft says the state retains ownership of land, but it can allocate plots to organisations and individuals for long-term use and people are entitled to bequeath land or transfer that right.

The draft formalises the right of Vietnamese to travel freely overseas, to invest money abroad and to make direct contacts with foreign companies to do business.

Although it has begun to attract private foreign investment, Vietnam's economy has suffered greatly from years of Socialist mismanagement followed by a cut in aid from the former Soviet Bloc. Mr. Thuc said the draft aimed

citizens to build housing.

at "political renewal ... but we are not going to carry out political reform in a sweeping manner. We want to have firm steps and measures in order to ensure political stability inside the country." A National Assembly official

told Reuters Friday that the constitutional changes had been prompted by events in the former act. Soviet Union and Eastern Europe, where Communist regimes have tumbled. "We have learned from the

events so that we can avoid disorder and chaos in our country," Tran Xuan Anh said.

The draft was intended to reduce Communist Party interfer- a cabinet.

ence in administration and make government more efficient. In future, Mr. Anh said, the party would continue to set the general political line but lawmaking was the job of the National Assembly and the party must

obey the law. The assembly, although in theory the highest state body, has existed merely to rubber stamp

Communist Party directives. Communist abuse of power and influence-peddling has caused widespread resentment and the party has purged thousands of members in recent years in an effort to clean up its

Under the draft, the National Assembly is to convene three times a year instead of two and elect fewer, better qualified, de-

It will appoint a prime minister with greatly increased decisionmaking powers, who will choose